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MARRIAGE.

On the 8th January, 1898, at the Peak Church, Hongkong, by the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, M.A., WILLIAM HERBERT TRENCHARD DAVIS, second son of the late WILLIAM DAVIS, Solicitor, Melbourne, Australia, to MATILDA KATHLEEN, eldest daughter of the late JOSEPH DODD, of Melbourne, and of Mrs. DODD, "Oaklands," Wattle Tree Road, Malvern, Melbourne, Australia, and grand-daughter of the late Major MACPHERSON.

DEATHS.

At Newchwang, on the 29th December, 1897, JAMES FINLAY GALBRAITH, of Glasgow, aged 24 years (Acting Agent of the American Trading Co., Newchwang).

At Chinkiang, on the 5th January, 1898, from inflammation of the lungs, MINNIE MAUD, youngest child of THOMAS WILLIAM and JESSIE BOWERN, aged 11 months and four days. Deeply regretted.

At Shanghai, on the 6th January, 1898, THEODORE EYSEL, aged 35 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 7th December arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Gaelic*, on the 5th January (29 days); and the English mail of the 10th December arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Rohilla*, on the 10th January (31 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

M. Matunine has been appointed Russian Minister to Korea.

The three Burd Street murderers were executed in Victoria Goal yesterday morning.

L'Echo de Chine states that M. Dubail, for some time the very popular Consul-General for France in Shanghai, has been nominated Minister to Caracas.

M. Gerard lately Minister for France at Peking, has been appointed to Brussels.

The latest report as to the Belgian loan is that the negotiations have finally broken down.—*N. C. Daily News*.

It is stated that the territory "leased" by China to Germany, including Kiaochau Bay, is twenty miles each way, or four hundred square miles.—*N. C. Daily News*.

A farewell reception was given at the Astor Hall, Shanghai, on the 30th December, to the Rev. Dr. Stevens, who is retiring from the pastorate of the Union Church.

The Burmo-Chinese Boundary Commission left Bhamo on the 18th December in two parties, all preliminaries having been successfully arranged with General Liu.

The appointment of Mr. Hiram Shaw Wilkinson to be Judge of Her Majesty's Court for Japan is notified in the *London Gazette* of the 3rd December, under date of 10th November.

A Madrid telegram to the *Comercio* says it is reported in well informed circles that the Marquis de Estella, Governor and Commander-in-chief of the Philippines, is to be created a Duke.

Mr. H. P. Wilkinson has received by wire the substantive appointment of Crown Advocate and Legal Adviser to the Legations; an appointment the news of which will be received with general satisfaction in Shanghai.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The *Japan Mail* urges that Japan should not allow the completion of her naval programme to depend on China's indemnity payments, but should at once borrow two hundred million yen (£20,000,000 sterling) in London, while it can be done with ease.

The notification of Mr. George Jamieson's appointment as Consul-General at Shanghai appears in the *London Gazette* of 3rd December, under date of 13th November. No mention is made in the notification of Mr. Jamieson's additional appointment as Commercial Attaché.

Commodore Dewey, who has been appointed to succeed Rear-Admiral McNair in the command of the U.S. squadron in the Far East, arrived at Nagasaki by the O. & O. steamer *Gaelic* on the 31st December. Rear-Admiral McNair and his staff were expected to leave by the O. & O. steamer *Coptic* on the 3rd January.

The Provincial Treasurer at Nanking, in obedience to orders received from Peking, has purchased Tls. 150,000 worth of wooden piles from the timber merchants at Kiangning and Chinkiang, presumably, according to native reports, to be used in blocking up certain points in the Yangtze when occasion calls for such a move. Recruiting stations have been opened in various parts of Nanking, the intention being to raise ten battalions of 500 men each, as soon as possible.—*N. C. Daily News*.

It has been reported during the week that an agreement has been arrived at between England, Russia, and Japan with reference to China and Korea, and although it is impossible to get official confirmation of the report it is generally accepted that the crisis is over. This belief is strengthened by the statement that Great Britain will lend China financial assistance, raising the money by an issue of consols. It is expected that the British fleet will shortly return to Hongkong.

The China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society have sent out a circular asking replies to a large number of questions which are designed to elucidate the statements of Mr. Grosvenor, in his report for 1896 on the Trade of China, that the silver price of copper cash has risen, while their purchasing power in regard to commodities in general has declined.

The round-the-world cyclists, Messrs. Fraser, Lunn, and Lowe, were entertained to dinner at the Shanghai Club on Monday evening the 3rd inst. Sir Nicholas Hannen presided and about fifty or sixty subscribers, of various nationalities, were present. The health of the three cyclists was proposed by the Chairman and, after the toast had been enthusiastically honoured, Mr. Fraser responded. He said the cruellest criticism of their journey of 14,000 miles came from a Chinaman! "The other afternoon I was," said Mr. Fraser, "introduced to a Celestial by a friend who told him we had come thousands and thousands of miles, that often there had been nothing to eat, and that we were wet through and had dangers, and lived for weeks on nothing but rice and vanity, and a great many more ornate untruths. The Chinaman looked at me curiously for a few seconds and then said gravely: 'Too much damn-fool!'" On the 5th inst. the Taotai of Shanghai entertained the cyclists at dinner, and on Saturday they left for Nagasaki. From there they will cycle up to Yokohama.

Our French contemporary, the *Echo de Chine*, discusses the claim Englishmen complacently make, if China is to be partitioned, to the Yangtze Valley. Ignoring altogether the fact that it was England that threw China open to the commerce of the world, it points out that English interests in China are principally concerned with imports, commissions, and transport. The two chief Chinese products, tea and silk, go to Russia and France respectively. As to imports, the principal ones in which England is interested are cotton goods, iron manufactures, and opium, and a fatal blow has been struck at this trade by the development of industries in China, the depreciation of silver, and the formidable competition of Germany and the United States. The commissions England has hitherto earned as broker between the European seller and the native buyers are being more and more threatened by German competition, and by the Chinese taking direct trade into their own hands; and so the English houses in the small ports are one by one disappearing. Even a large part of the capital employed in the transport business is native. To take the river ports, for instance; at Chinkiang there are two English houses of no importance: at Wuhu, none; at Kinkiang, one agency vegetating under the shadow of two great Russian tea firms. At Hankow British trade plays only a suppressed and subordinate part. The Russians have the whole of the tea business, and the trade in skins is entirely in the hands of six German firms, and two French firms who have in a very short time acquired an excellent position in the market. All this shows, says the *Echo*, the baselessness of British pretensions to preponderance in the trade of the Yangtze; but we fear our contemporary will be disappointed if it thinks that this extraordinary story will discourage the British Government from warning any other pretender off the valley of the Yangtze.—*N. C. Daily News*.

HONGKONG AND THE OPENING-UP OF CHINA.

(11th January.)

If it be true that England has consented to guarantee a Chinese loan—of which there would seem now to be little doubt—we may look for an important forward movement in China. Such a guarantee would not have been given without some security in the shape of an effective control over the collection and administration of the revenue, and if that be once secured the development of the country's resources will follow as a natural sequence. We shall see railways made, mines opened up, and the whole country thrown open to trade. It is always wise not to count one's chickens before they are hatched, but it is impossible to refrain from speculation as to the great results that must follow, not only to China itself but also and more particularly to this colony, which will remain the headquarters and focus of British influence in the Far East and the chief emporium of a greatly increasing commerce. It is said that the loan is to be a three per cent. one issued at 110, terms which are quite phenomenally advantageous for China and can only have been granted in return for substantial concessions. Only on very rare occasions has Great Britain guaranteed a loan even for one of her own colonies, but she is now giving her guarantee to China, which makes investment in the loan almost as good as in consols, and the terms of issue are more favourable than those on which Hongkong's loan was launched. Under such exceptional circumstances we are justified in looking for important developments. The rectification of Hongkong's boundaries had in all probability been already agreed upon, but if the question was still hanging in the balance it will now be decided in the colony's favour as one of the terms of the arrangement under which England gives China her friendly assistance and protection. With the delimitation once effected numerous and important industrial undertakings will speedily spring up in the newly acquired territory, where cheap sites and adequate water supply will readily be found. It may be assumed, too, that the obstacles that have hitherto been placed in the way of the making of a railway from Canton to Kowloon will now be removed and that capitalists who wish to invest their money in an undertaking of that kind will encounter no further difficulties. How long the scheme may be before it materialises we would not like to predict, for it will no doubt be left to local enterprise. The scheme for a great trunk line from Peking to Hankow, to be extended subsequently to Canton, will, however, be taken in hand at once and lines in other directions will speedily follow. The waterways throughout the country will also be improved and thrown open to navigation by steamers, and with the regularisation of internal taxation and the abolition of the squeeze system trade in all branches will receive an enormous impetus. This will necessarily lead to a great increase in the shipping passing through Hongkong, and with an increase in its life blood—*pace* the Harbour Master—the colony cannot fail to prosper. Great as has been the growth of Hongkong at various periods in its past history we are now probably entering on a period which will in that respect surpass any previous one.

The *Hyogo News* says:—Portland Cement is alleged to be available now in excess of the demand and prices for the imported article have declined. Most of the home factories are still busy with standing contracts.

THE REIFICATION OF HONGKONG'S BOUNDARIES.

(5th January.)

By yesterday's mail we are in receipt of London papers containing the detailed statement on which was founded the report telegraphed to Canadian papers respecting the rectification of Hongkong's boundaries, which we reproduced a few days ago. The Central News Agency is the authority for the statement, which is made with such detail that it is impossible to doubt that it has some foundation in fact. Several contradictions, it seems, were published after the report appeared, but none of them were official. The *London and China Express* in reproducing the statement remarks that it "contains nothing by way of information" to its readers, a remark which is opposed to fact, for our contemporary had not up to that time informed its readers that negotiations on the subject had made substantial progress, nor was it known in the Far East that such was the case. We all knew what was wanted, but had no idea the question was so far advanced, though it was naturally assumed that with the altered situation in the Far East the importance of speedily securing Miao Bay would be recognised by the home Government, as it has long been by the local authorities. It would appear, however, if the statement of the Central News is correct, that the matter was set in train in October last, before the German seizure of Kiaochow threw the political world of the Far East into a ferment. We can only hope that the negotiations have progressed as favourably as the Central News represents, and that the convention giving effect to the alleged agreement may be speedily concluded. Possibly the Central News may have been indiscreet, from a Foreign Office point of view, in prematurely publishing information as to negotiations not actually concluded, but, however that may be, there can be no question as to the importance of the information if it be correct, of which there does not seem to be much doubt.

RUSSIA IN KOREA.

(8th January.)

Russia is openly bent on establishing a protectorate in Korea. She has given the British Government cause for remonstrance and complaint by insisting on the retirement of Mr. McLEAVY BROWN, a British subject, from the Korean Customs and from the position of financial adviser, and is aiming at the virtual expulsion of the Japanese from the peninsular Kingdom. It is openly announced at St. Petersburg that Monsieur ALEXIEFF, the new Russian Representative there, is invested with authority to promote Russian commerce in Korea in competition with Great Britain and Japan and to construct an Orthodox Church at Seoul. So far as Great Britain is concerned Russia is welcome to promote Russo-Korean trade as much as she pleases, and to construct half a dozen Orthodox Churches in the capital. The Koreans are sadly in need of some religion and if the Greek religion will only improve their morals and render their persons more cleanly the Russian fathers will not labour in vain. As for trade, there is, so far, very little to talk about. If Russia secured the whole of Korea would be little the poorer, as the share taken by her in the foreign trade of Korea is very limited, and there are only two or three British traders in the country. With the Japanese it is different. Japan first opened Korea to trade, and Japanese traders and merchants

were established in the principal treaty ports before Western merchants arrived on the scene. For some years after the ports were opened, foreign commercial interests were represented by a number of Japanese and one German firm. More recently British merchants have appeared on the scene, but the entire volume of trade is even now insignificant. What Russia is really aiming at, however, is not so much the development of trade as the establishment of a paramount influence in the peninsula and the acquisition of an unfrozen port, possibly for the terminus of the great Trans-Siberian Railway.

It is better to recognise facts as they are, and to come to a definite understanding with Russia at once than for Lord SALISBURY to shut his eyes to what is going on and, "saying he would never consent," consenting. It is no part of Great Britain's true policy to play the part of dog in the manger by attempting to thwart Russia's natural ambition to find an outlet for her trade and produce from Siberia in an open port. She may for sentimental reasons regret to see the "Hermit Kingdom" lose her semi-independence and become a province of the Russian empire; but her interests in Korea are, as we have intimated, very slender, and they might be compounded for by an understanding with Russia to secure compensatory advantages elsewhere. It is time that a proper understanding should be come to with Russia, if that Power is amenable to reason. And there is no special reason to believe otherwise. Great Britain and Russia are naturally not rivals. They each have their own well defined spheres of influence in Asia, and should be close allies rather than competitors. The field occupied by each is so vast that neither could, in the nature of things, aspire or desire to take the place of the other in addition to her own existing responsibilities. Each should look for support from the other to repress disorder, promote trade, and quicken the effete civilisation of the orientals with the vigour, life, and activity of the West. Should Russia, however, either through an unreasoning jealousy or mistrust of England, elect to go on an opposite tack, striving to injure and wound British *amour propre*, she may drive the Mistress of the Seas to measures which, coupled with the probable action of Japan, could hardly fail to eliminate Russia from the Pacific coast for many years to come and set back the growth of Siberia indefinitely.

ANGLO-FRENCH AGREEMENT RELATING TO CHUSAN.

(10th January.)

A Reuter's telegram to the Indian papers, dated the 21st December, informs us that a semi-official statement made in Paris recalls the fact that Great Britain and France some years ago signed a protocol each undertaking not to take Chusan. This important telegram, of more interest to Reuter's subscribers in the Far East than to those in India, was not sent out here, though the French semi-official statement was apparently made in reply to an article in the *Times*, a brief summary of which Reuter telegraphed out under date of 20th December in the following terms:—"The *Times*, discussing the occupation of Port Arthur by a Russian Squadron, says that Great Britain cannot remain indifferent to changes which, by their effect upon the Peking Government and the redistribution of Naval power, may seriously affect our commercial supremacy."

"The *Times* re-affirms the advantages of Chusan and some of the smaller islands, where a self-supporting station could be easily established. It believes that Japan is likely to demand the retention of Wei-hai-wei." It would seem therefore that the *Times* was ignorant of the alleged protocol by which France and Great Britain are said to have agreed that neither of them should take Chusan. Nothing has ever previously been published with reference to such a protocol, the very existence of which has been hitherto unknown in the Far East. We would fain believe that there has been some mistake, but the French semi-official statement appears too explicit and direct to admit of that. When or why the protocol was entered into we are at a loss to conceive, but if its existence be a fact it must be due to some extraordinary blunder on the part of our Foreign Office. Nothing more stupid could be imagined than to surrender our lien on such a desirable position as Chusan and tie our hands in respect of any future action that might be necessary. In the event of our having at any time to enforce demands against China by force of arms the occupation of Chusan would seem to be one of the first steps that would naturally be taken in the operations, and to enter into an agreement with a third Power that we would not take that step means a material weakening of our position. Also in the event of the breaking up of the Chinese empire, a contingency which should have been present to the mind of any statesman dealing with the politics of the Far East at any time since the Taiping Rebellion, Chusan would naturally be included in Great Britain's share in the partitioning. Yet all these advantages have been thrown away, and for what? On that point we are left in ignorance. We do not know what undertaking France gave in return for the surrender of our rights, but we suspect it was nothing of any real value. Can it be that the surrender was made in a spirit of funk at the time of the Franco-Chinese war, when the idea of a French occupation of Chusan presented itself? The proper thing to have done then would have been to give France clearly to understand that Great Britain had rights over Chusan and that it was intended to maintain those rights. There was no rhyme or reason in bartering away our rights for less than a mess of pottage. The pusillanimous policy of always giving in to every outrageous demand of our rivals not only does no good, but it does a great deal of harm, because instead of cementing friendly relations it only encourages further demands. The present—or perhaps we should now say recent—critical position of affairs in the Far East is ascribable in large part to the weakness of England's policy during the last twelve or fifteen years. Had England steadily maintained her proper influence during that period she would not have been elbowed out as she has been. She has now, we are glad to believe, regained her former position. All that was required to achieve that end was to show that she was in earnest, and we trust that she will never again allow herself to fall into a policy of drift. If the mistakes of the past have been happily retrieved before it was too late they have nevertheless entailed a good deal of loss in the meantime.

(11th January.)

A correspondent sends us, *à propos* of the article in yesterday's issue on an alleged protocol by which England and France undertook that neither should annex Chusan, an extract from an article in the

Revue des Deux Mondes by Mr. RENÉPINON, of which we make the following translation:—"During the China-Japan war England by her vacillating policy succeeded in losing her credit in the Far East. For a long time previously she had contemplated an occupation of the Chusan Islands, a strategic position of the first order, and installing herself in the luxuriant valley of the Yangtze, which is, so to speak, the principal artery of China's immense body. Fifteen thousand men, it was said, would suffice for the conquest of this second Egypt. Everything was got ready for the event; the Canadian-Pacific Railway and the *Empress* boats were there to transport the troops. The plan was almost carried into execution at the commencement of the late war; there was a landing on the Chusan Islands, but the foreign squadrons were on the watch, their cruisers threw inconsiderate glances on the English operations, the troops were directed to Hongkong, and it was pretended they had never had any other destination." Our correspondent asks if this throws any light on the question of when the alleged protocol saw the light? We should say not. The whole narrative is an obvious invention. There was no landing by any British force on Chusan at the time named unless it was the ordinary visit paid from time to time by a man-of-war to see that the graves of the soldiers buried there at the time of the occupation are duly respected, nor was there any extraordinary movement of troops or arrival in Hongkong of any force that had originally had another destination. Presumably M. RENÉPINON built up his amusing little fiction upon the bare fact that when the war broke out between China and Japan England arranged with the latter that the Yangtze was to be considered outside the sphere of her operations. There was no question between England and France regarding Chusan at that time, and it is more probable that the mysterious protocol—of the existence of which M. RENÉPINON appears like the rest of us to have been ignorant—was concluded some years previously at the time that France was making reprisals against China.

THE REPORTED ANGLO-JAPANESE ALLIANCE

Does an alliance exist between England and Japan? The *China Gazette* claims to be in a position to announce such an alliance "as a matter of fact, even though it has not yet been put into written form and probably will never find formal expression on paper." But we have authoritative information, continues our contemporary, "of the existence of what is to all intents and purposes a practical alliance between the two countries, arrived at in London and Tokyo upon the present position, and with the sole and avowed object of preventing any disturbance of the peace of the Far East or of the obtaining by any one European Power or any combination of these Powers of a paramount influence in either China or Korea. Success by any one Power or any alliance of Powers in this respect, both the British and Japanese statesmen have decided to consider as equally inimical to British and Japanese interests in the Far East, and both these Governments have likewise decided to defend their joint and several interests to the bitterest end." The phrase "what is to all intents and purposes a practical alliance" reads rather

vaguely, and under the circumstances the vagueness must be considered prudent. If England and Japan are working for a common end at one and the same time it is only natural that they should act in concert and in the strict meaning of the term, that no doubt constitutes an alliance, but as commonly used in international politics the term "alliance" conveys a wider meaning than a mere temporary agreement for the attainment of some particular object. Thus we have the alliance between Germany, Austria, and Italy, and the alliance between France and Russia; but the term could not have been correctly applied, for instance, to the concert of the Powers for the settlement of the recent Cretan difficulty. Nor is it desirable that the term should be loosely applied to any agreement, expressed or understood, that may exist between England and Japan. While England regards with sympathetic interest Japan's progress and would gladly lend her any friendly assistance for the furtherance of her welfare, and while at some juncture it might be to the common interest of the two countries to act in concert with regard to international questions, a formal alliance in the larger sense of the term could not be expected to commend itself to the approval of the English public. It is England's policy to avoid entangling alliances, and an alliance with Japan might prove particularly entangling and hazardous. The present difficulty is, indeed, in large measure the result of Japan's own errors and wrong-doing. The murder of the late Queen of Korea must be laid to Japan's door, and it was that unfortunate event that caused the King to seek Russian protection and led to the rapid increase of Russian influence in the country. An alliance with a Power capable of acting as Japan acted in that matter would detract from England's moral standing and be a source of weakness rather than strength.

JINGOISM AND THE DESIGNS OF FOREIGN POWERS IN THE FAR EAST.

The *Spectator*, in its pleasantly didactic style, lectures the British jingo on what is termed his dog-in-the-manger policy, *à propos* of Kiaochau and the dividing up of China. China our contemporary compares to a great half-drowned whale which is being sliced up by every crew that can get near enough to it to use its knives. Russia, France, Japan, Germany, everybody is having a cut, and the huge beast is too languid and fatigued even to spout. But British interests, it is contended, are not sufficiently affected to justify intervention. "It is time," the article proceeds, that "some one should speak out upon this matter. We detest the dog-in-the-manger policy which some of our statesmen regard as adroit, and which too many of our contemporaries are prepared on all occasions to support. We English have gone about the world for a century snapping up every position of vantage we can obtain, opening up new trade routes everywhere, and even conquering broad regions for the sake of trade, which, as we think, follows the flag, though France does not find it so, and then when any Power pursues the same policy we fall into fits of righteous indignation. What kind of moral right have we to say that Russia, wanting as she does to turn Siberia into a Canadian Dominion, shall not find a port of exit for her vast possessions a little to the south of the ice-bound regions of

"the Siberian coast? How long should we be, if Canada had no port, before we made it a primary object of our policy to get one for her? Or what claims have we, who hold Hongkong, Labuan, and Singapore, to declare that Germany, with her large Far Eastern trade, shall not have a port in which the warships necessary to protect that trade shall be refitted? If anything that is ours is taken away or menaced, or if we are violently prevented from acquiring our fair share of influence or commerce, let us fight, and fight with our whole hearts; but let us not give way to these unreasoning fits of jealousy and spite." This is no doubt a very correct attitude to assume, and in the main it corresponds with the trend of opinion amongst the English communities of the Far East, always with the proviso that the acquisitions of other Powers are not detrimental to our interests. But it is there that the rub comes. It is true that we English have gone about the world for a century snapping up every position of vantage we can claim, but no other Power has been prejudiced thereby, the said positions of vantage being as open to the trade of other nations as to our own. If other Powers would proceed on the same principle we would have little reason to object to their following our example in obtaining points of vantage, but, unfortunately for that amiable view of the matter, one of the main objects of other Powers in acquiring foreign possessions is to shut out all trade but their own by differential tariffs, bounties, and so forth. Even if guarantees for the maintenance of existing commercial privileges are obtained they are of doubtful permanence, as is illustrated by the recent surrender to France of our rights in Tunis. The same thing might happen in Korea and North China if Russia entered into possession. For the time being she might be willing to consent to the continuance of the existing commercial arrangements, but she would no doubt take the earliest opportunity of setting them aside and securing for herself complete freedom of action. This might be done possibly by way of a bargain in respect of a dispute in some other part of the world, or simply by tearing up the treaty at some moment when Great Britain was too much occupied elsewhere to resent it. Without advocating a dog-in-the-manager policy, therefore, or saying that Russia, Germany, or any other Power shall not acquire such ports as the necessities of their expansion call for, it is essential that Great Britain should take careful note of all their doings and secure for herself such further positions of vantage as may be required to prevent her existing or prospective interests being prejudiced. Our Government appears at last to have realised the importance of the situation in the Far East, but the utmost reticence is observed in official circles as to the policy that has been determined on. The *North-China Herald* advocates that Great Britain should assist China in her financial embarrassments and thereby obtain a moral protectorate over the country. It is not our interest, says our contemporary, to see China partitioned, even if we get the valley of the Yangtze as our share; we would rather see the whole of China open on equal terms to the trade of all nations. But a moral protectorate without direct control over the administration would bring heavy responsibilities without the means of carrying them, and to assume such direct control, in face of the certain opposition of other Powers and the equally certain antagonism and falsity of the Chinese official classes and

literati, would be rather a large order, even for Great Britain with all her resources. Loth as we may be to abandon the idea of having the whole of China open on equal terms to the trade of all nations the trend of events seems to be rather towards the carving up of the country. And when the carving up takes place Great Britain must be ready on the spot to take her proper share. The integrity of China may possibly, by British influence, be preserved for some time longer, but it will only mean a short postponement of the inevitable breaking up of the empire.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS IN THE COLONIAL SERVICE.

A rule is said to have been made in the Colonial Service, and embodied in the form of a minute, that legal vacancies of the higher order shall for the future be filled by promotion wherever suitable candidates already in the service are applying for them. This rule, says a contemporary, "will have a two-fold effect. On the one hand it will compel the younger candidates outside the service to accept comparatively small appointments to begin with. On the other hand it will remove the shelving process of which within the Colonial Service there has during recent years been so much complaint." The most important question, however, is whether the system of appointment to legal office from the ranks of the Service is calculated to secure the best available men as judges. In the legal profession we believe the opinion prevails that the best training for a Judge is experience at the bar in private practice. This, it is contended, gives the barrister an acquaintance with life and legal practice that can never be acquired in the strictly official groove. Furthermore, if a man distinguishes himself in private practice his success affords a guarantee of ability which promotion by seniority fails to give. But perhaps the most serious objection to the system embodied in the new rule is that official Judges are apt to be unconsciously biased in favour of the Government and consequently to lack independence and impartiality where popular rights and official pretensions come into conflict. It is not every day that constitutional questions of that kind arise and consequently there is no great mass of experience upon which to found an opinion, but all parties must be agreed as to the importance of preserving the independence of the judicial bench inviolate in fact as well as in name. In practice, however, the system of appointment to legal office from the ranks of the Colonial Service does not seem to develop the evils that are imputed to it, judging from the experience of Hongkong. We have had several occupants of the bench, holding acting and substantive appointments, who were not even called to the bar until they had been in the service for some time, but who filled their positions as ably as others who had practised on circuit in England before they received their appointments. The objections seem therefore, in the light of present experience, to be theoretical rather than practical, but under the rule that all legal appointments are in future to be made from the ranks of the Colonial Service, to the exclusion of barristers who have distinguished themselves in private practice, it may possibly be found that the fears of the objectors are not altogether unfounded.

THE PARTITIONING OF CHINA.

A Dalziel telegram from Shanghai, published in the London papers, says:—"It is believed here, in the best-informed circles, that the new situation contemplated, with the passing of Northern China into Russian hands, at the same time that Germany takes Shantung and France Fokien, the creation of a new State purely Chinese in character, the capital of which will be Nanking. This new State will enjoy British protection, which will involve the occupation of strategic points by the British both on the coast and in the provinces of Yunnan, Hunan, and Szechuen." It may be doubted whether Dalziel's correspondent is in the confidence of the best informed circles, and the situation is far from being so advanced as the above telegram would represent it. In connection with the hypothetical partitioning of China we believe the idea of creating a new State in Mid-China, under British protection but Chinese in character, has commended itself in certain quarters, but it cannot be said at present to have advanced beyond the stage of adumbration and certainly not to have been adopted as a settled point of policy by the British Government, which still aims at securing as far as possible the integrity of China as it at present exists.

THE SITUATION.

REPORTED SETTLEMENT.

10th January.

From a reliable source we learn that the outstanding questions between Russia, England, and Japan in reference to China and Korea have been satisfactorily arranged. The basis of the arrangement is not as yet known, but the British ships that went North have been ordered to return to Hongkong, the *Powerful* is not to go North, and two cruisers, now on their way out from England will receive orders to return at the first port they reach. Consols have risen to 114, and a Chinese 3 per cent. loan guaranteed by England is to be issued at 110. The last item is confirmed by Reuter's telegram.

11th January.

We have not been able to obtain official confirmation of the reported agreement between England, Japan, and Russia. The officials either know nothing about it, or knowing something prefer not to say anything.

Facts which we have gleaned from private sources all point to a settlement having been arrived at—in favour, of course, of Great Britain. Consols are steady at 113; the Chinese 5 per cent. loan, which a week ago stood at 95½, has risen to 100½; and the Japanese 5 per cent. loan has advanced from 99½, which was the rate a week ago, to 102½. The money market is a reliable barometer and it is almost certain the political atmosphere has been cleared.

One gentleman who has the best sources of information says he would not be surprised to see the British fleet down here for the Races, while in another well informed quarter it was stated on reliable authority that the fleet would be here in about ten days. The only fact which might speak in favour of a non-settlement is the departure yesterday afternoon of the *Humber* with stores for the fleet.

In regard to the Chinese loan to be guaranteed by England nothing very definite is as yet known, but one financial authority thinks it relates to the unpaid £8,000,000 of the indemnity to Japan.

In Monday's issue appeared an extract from the *Chemist and Druggist* giving the results of an examination of some recently imported star anise oil. The article opened with the remark that "star anise oil is the product of the Chinese tree *Illicium anisatum*." This we are informed by Mr. Ford is an error. The oil is derived from *Illicium verum*.

THE FRENCH AT HAINAN.

On the 4th January the French man-of-war *Descartes* had been in the harbour of Hoihow for ten days, and the *Surprise*, after two days in port, had left for a cruise round the island. Several more vessels were daily expected. Everything was quiet, except that the natives were in great fear of a conflict. The non-combatants preferred to receive the French without resistance. In the military quarters no excitement was noticeable, from which it would seem that the authorities recognised that the taking of Hainan by the French was a foregone conclusion. The occupation, however, had not taken place up to the 4th January, but was regarded as probable.

SUPREME COURT.

10th January.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE).

TSANG YEE MUI V. TAM CHAK U, ALIAS TAM CHUN.

The plaintiff, who is a widow residing in Yuen Shing Lane, sought to set aside an agreement charging certain property as security to the defendant, who resides at 36, Hollywood Road.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., (instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes, and Master), appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson) for the defendant.

The evidence and arguments were heard on the 26th November.

His Lordship delivered the following written judgment:—

The facts of this case are not in dispute between the parties, and the case was argued on the petition and answer. The only evidence placed before the Court was the agreement on the construction of which the questions at issue between the parties are now raised.

The facts may be shortly stated as follows. On the 4th September, 1896, two men named Cheung Kwai Shun, alias Cheung Shun, and Tang Hing Tong, alias Tang Yee Mui, who were then carrying on business as building contractors under the firm name of Kwong Hop Wo, entered into a contract with the Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Company, Limited, to pull down and rebuild certain houses for the sum of \$17,500, payable in instalments of \$2,000 each. The work was to be completed within 14 months from the 1st August, 1896, and there was a stipulation that, in the event of the work being completed before the expiration of the 14 months, the contractors were to be paid the sum of \$30 for each day in which it stood so completed.

The defendant found the security required of the contractors for the due performance of the contract, and, in consideration of this service and with a view to secure his proper remuneration for it, an agreement in writing was entered into on the 1st October, 1896. The parties to this agreement were the contractors of the first part, the defendant (referred to as "the surety") of the second part, and the plaintiff (who is the mother of Tang Hing Tong, alias Tang Yee Mui, one of the contractors, and who is referred to as "the mortgagor") of the third part. After recitals relating to the contract and to the finding of security by the defendant the agreement proceeds as follows:—

And whereas the contractors have agreed with the surety and with the mortgagor that in consideration of the services so rendered by the surety to the contractors as aforesaid the surety shall be entitled to the remuneration hereinafter mentioned to be secured by the mortgagor in manner hereinafter appearing. Now it is hereby agreed between the parties hereto as follows:—

1.—The surety shall have handed to him by Mr. William Danby (hereinafter called "the architect") or by the contractors all certificates for payments to be made under the said contract and such certificate shall (if necessary) be endorsed by the contractors, and the contractors hereby constitute and appoint the surety

to be the true and lawful attorney of them and of each of them for them and in their names or in the name of Kwong Hop Wo or otherwise to demand sue for recover and receive of and from the company and the architect or either of them all moneys due or to become due and payable under the said contract whether in respect of the said contract price or in respect of any extras or additions to be paid for under the said contract with power to demand and to receive the certificates of the architect from time to time and to endorse the same in the names of the contractors or in the name of Kwong Hop Wo and to give in such names or name or otherwise full and effectual discharges acquittances and receipts for all moneys due or to become due and payable under the said contract as aforesaid.

2.—The surety shall be entitled to retain for his own use and benefit absolutely out of all moneys received by him under this agreement a sum equal to five per cent. on the amount of such moneys and in the event of any moneys payable under the said contract being received by the contractors or either of them the contractors shall be jointly and severally liable to pay forthwith to the surety a sum equal to five per cent. on the amount of the moneys so received by them or either of them.

3.—If the contractors shall become entitled to any extra payments by reason of their completing the work within the contract time the surety shall receive such payments and shall retain or shall have paid to him by the contractors one equal sixth part of the amount of such extra payments.

4.—After the completion of the work under the said contract the contractors shall pay to the surety a salary or remuneration of fifteen dollars per Chinese month on the last day of every such month so long as the contractors remain partners or trade or carry on business under the name of Kwong Hop Wo.

5.—The mortgagor being the registered owner of the remaining portion of Inland Lot No. 687 hereby agrees to charge the said remaining portion of the said Lot to the extent of four thousand dollars in favour of the surety as security for the due performance of this agreement by and on behalf of the contractors, and the mortgagor further agrees that she will at the request of the surety execute a legal mortgage to him of the said premises as security for such due performance as aforesaid.

No mortgage was called for or executed under the last of these stipulations, but the agreement was registered in the Land Office as a charge upon the remaining portion of Inland Lot No. 687.

The defendant, in accordance with the terms of the agreement, received two instalments of \$2,000 each, and retained his commission of 5 per cent. on those sums. No other moneys were received under the building contract by the defendant or any one else.

Before the completion of the work under the contract the contractors became insolvent and ceased to trade or carry on business under the name of Kwong Hop Wo or otherwise. In December, 1896, the Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Company, Limited, cancelled the contract.

In these circumstances the plaintiff seeks in her petition to have it declared by the Court that she is not indebted to the defendant in the sum of \$4,000 or in any sum of money in respect of the agreement, and that the remaining portion of Inland Lot No. 687 is not subject to any charge in favour of the defendant in respect of the agreement. She further asks that the defendant may be ordered to enter in the Registry of the Land Office a certificate of satisfaction in respect of the charge already registered.

The defendant in his answer resists this demand, and says that, in breach of the agreement, he was prevented by the default of the contractors from receiving the other instalments and the extra payments payable under the building contract and retaining therefrom the sums secured to him by the agreement as remuneration for the services rendered by him. He submits, therefore, that he has a charge on the property comprised in the agreement to the amount which, but for the default of the contractors, he would have received under the agreement.

As I have already indicated, the decision of these questions turns upon the construction of the agreement. What is its true meaning and effect so far as the obligation of the plaintiff is concerned? Did she undertake, as Mr. Slade on behalf of the defendant contends, to secure the defendant in the receipt of remuneration in respect of all sums of money which might properly be receivable under the building contract or did she only, as Mr. Francis on her behalf contends, engage that the defendant should receive remuneration in respect of all sums of money actually received under the contract?

In answering these questions it is necessary to consider carefully the language of the agreement. The stipulations relating to the remuneration of the defendant are contained in paragraphs 2, 3, and 4. Paragraph 2 has reference to the principal sums payable under the building contract. It provides that the defendant is to retain for his own use absolutely 5 per cent. on all moneys received by him under the agreement, and also that, in the event of the contractors receiving any moneys under the building contract, they were to pay him a like percentage on them. In both these cases the words used imply actual receipt of moneys and do not cover the case of moneys which might or ought to be received. If this be so, the finding on this part of the case must be that, before determination of the building contract, the defendant received \$4,000 under the agreement, on which he retained his 5 per cent. remuneration, and the contractors received no moneys under the building contract, and therefore nothing is due to the defendant on account of this stipulation.

But then it was argued on behalf of the defendant that if a party enters into an arrangement which can only take effect by the continuance of a certain existing state of circumstances, there is an implied engagement on his part that he shall do nothing of his own motion to put an end to that state of circumstances under which alone the arrangement can be operative. In support of this contention the case of *Stirling v. Maitland*, 5 B. & S. 840, was cited. In that case an insurance company covenanted with the plaintiff for valuable consideration to appoint him their agent at Glasgow, together with A. B. Seton, and that if the plaintiff should be displaced from the agency, they would pay him a certain sum, and the company having transferred their business to another company and wound up their affairs and dissolved themselves, it was held by the Court of Queen's Bench that this was a displacement of the plaintiff within the meaning of the covenant. But it is to be observed that the ground of the decision in that case was that the company had by their own voluntary act put an end to the state of things under which alone the covenant could operate, and it was clearly recognized by the Court—see the observations of Crompton, J., at p. 849 and of Cockburn, C.J., at p. 852—that if the displacement had been the consequence of the involuntary act of the company—"as, for instance, a bankruptcy"—the result might have been different. Some other cases referred to by Mr. Slade turn upon the same point, namely, that the putting an end to the contract was the voluntary act of the party sought to be charged. In the present case the act of the contractors by which the building contract was determined was the involuntary act of insolvency, and there is no allegation by the defendant that this insolvency was brought about by improper means in fraud of the contract or of the agreement. It cannot therefore be said that the contractors wrongfully put an end to the contract and that therefore they, and consequently the plaintiff who became their surety, are liable in respect of the remuneration of the defendant under the agreement in the same manner as if the building contract had been carried out to its completion.

It was said by counsel on both sides during the argument that the parties to the agreement, when entering into it, contemplated the carrying out of the building contract to its completion. No doubt this was so; it is the same presumably with every contract. But this contemplated event has not taken place in the present instance: the building contract has not run its course but has been prematurely brought to an end by a contingency which I hold not to have

been the voluntary act of the contractors. The question then is, was this contingency which has occurred within the contemplation of the parties when they entered into the stipulations relating to the plaintiff's remuneration, or rather, perhaps, is the language in which they have embodied those stipulations wide enough to cover the contingency which has occurred and to ensure the continuance of the plaintiff's remuneration, notwithstanding the occurrence of the contingency? I think the answer must be in the negative; that words might easily have been inserted in the agreement, making the plaintiff liable in any event, but they are absent; and that the result of their absence is that the agreement has fallen with the building contract and the plaintiff is not liable to make good the claim of the defendant to remuneration on the sum of \$17,500 beyond that which he has already received.

This decision on the principal claim is equivalent to a decision on the subsidiary claims with respect to the extra payments and the monthly salary.

The judgment of the Court, then, is in favour of the plaintiff, and she is entitled to a decree in the terms of the prayer of her petition to which I have already referred, and also to her costs of suit.

11th January.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE.)

PANG KOON CHEE AND WONG TSUK LAM, APPELLANTS, V. HON. F. H. MAY, RESPONDENT.

The appellants sought to appeal by way of rehearing both on a point of law and of fact from a decision of the Magistrate convicting them of champerty.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist); appeared for Pang Koon Chee; Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) for Wong Tsuk Lam; and Hon. W. M. Goodman, Attorney-General (instructed by Mr. H. L. Denny, Crown Solicitor), represented the respondent.

The Chief Justice—In this case there are two appellants and the questions come before the Court in two forms in each case. There is a case stated raising questions of law in respect of each appellant and there is also a motion for leave to appeal by way of rehearing in respect of each appellant. With regard to the case stated my brother and I think that the case must go back to the Magistrate to be stated more carefully and more correctly. It seems that the case was filed in the Registry and subsequently delivered back to the Magistrate to be amended. The case is not now in a convenient and proper form and the Court thinks it must be referred back to the Magistrate to be stated more accurately. More care should also be exercised in stating the facts of the two cases. Then in regard to the motion for leave to appeal by way of rehearing, of course we will proceed with those now if you gentlemen like, but I am inclined to think that the more convenient course would be to argue the question of law first. What do you say, Mr. Francis?

Mr. Francis—I fully agree with your Lordship.

The Puisne Judge—I should like to say that I think this case must go back. The Court is not informed at all as the case is now stated.

The Chief Justice—What do you say, Mr. Attorney?

The Attorney-General—There is the main question as to whether the law of champerty is in force in this colony or not. If it is held that the law of champerty is in force there is an end to all proceedings.

The Chief Justice—Quite so.

The Attorney-General—On the other hand if it is held that the law does apply it will be necessary to state the application of that law very accurately to the two specific cases. As regards the case, I may say I had nothing to do with the stating of it, but I am quite willing that the arguments should be heard now.

The Puisne Judge—We cannot hear any arguments on a case stated like that.

The Chief Justice—The best course is to postpone the motions for leave to appeal by way of rehearing. We wish it to be laid down as a rule of practice that in cases of a motion for leave to appeal by way of rehearing a copy of the depositions must be sent up for each of the Judges. At present there is only one copy.

The Puisne Judge—I did not see any papers until this morning and I thought there was only one appellant.

The Attorney-General—The depositions were taken when the appellants were tried together.

The Puisne Judge—I know. I did not see the depositions until ten o'clock this morning and then I got a notice of motion in only one case—Wong Tsuk Lam.

The Chief Justice—As soon as the case comes back we will fix an early date for the hearing.

Mr. Francis—May I take it that your Lordships are going to give instructions for the stated case to be amended?

The Chief Justice—Instructions will be given for the case to be amended more carefully and correctly. It is not in the proper form now. There is a mass of eliminations and corrections and I do not think that is quite right. The case must also be more fairly stated.

The Court then adjourned.

FAREWELL BANQUET TO THE "PRINCE OF WALES' OWN" BY THE HONGKONG POLO CLUB.

The members of this Club entertained the polo playing members of the 14th, West Yorkshire, Regiment at a farewell dinner in the Hongkong Club a few evenings before their departure for Singapore. The Hon. T. H. Whitehead occupied the chair, and the Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., the vice chair, and amongst those present were—Col. Charles Stewart Gordon, Major G. Grant Dalton, Captains Lush, Barry Drew, G. D. Price, and Messrs. R. G. King, M. D. Wood, A. Spencer, and C. W. Gordon, Capt. Burney, R.A., Capt. Loveband, and Messrs. D. Landale, C. C. Platt, and G. H. Potts, Messrs. C. N. Buzzard and P. H. Crickshank, R.A., C. H. H. Nugent, and A. Bannerman, R.E., and V. A. Lawford, R.N.

At the foot of the menu the following lines were appended:—

So search the world all over, take the pastimes, one and all;
No better game than Polo you can find;
For, like life, its twists and turnings teach us all to give
and take,
And strengthen both the muscle and the mind.
So the flying ball we'll follow ever on from goal to goal,
Till minutes into hours swiftly pass;
And we vow no other pleasure in excitement can compare
To such a glorious gallop on the grass.

After the toast of the "Queen," which was loyally honoured, the CHAIRMAN said—We have met together to try to do honour to the playing members of the 14th Regiment, who are so soon to leave Hongkong for Singapore. Pressure of business in these critical times has not permitted me the leisure to prepare a speech worthy of the occasion, or to justify my selection as your mouthpiece. The toast I have risen to propose is "Health and prosperity to the Prince of Wales' Own," a Regiment formed in 1685 out of a company of one hundred musketeers and pikemen, and which represents in a high degree the strength and the backbone of the British Army, viz., the British Infantry, a splendid Force unsurpassed in the world, of which General Foy, the French writer, said—
"Thank God there are so few of them." Since 1685 under various names and in almost every quarter of the globe the Regiment has by good service, courage, and bravery earned many well deserved honours and distinctions and has added materially to the glorious traditions of the British Army. The Regiment has been in many campaigns, including Flanders, the Crimea, and Scotland, and has taken an honourable part in numerous battles and actions, viz., Waterloo, Corrunna, Tournay, Famars, Glenshiel, Culloden, and Sherrifmuir. In the Corrunna Sir John Moore received a mortal wound and his end recalls the words:—

Slowly and sadly we laid him down
On the field of his fame, fresh and gory.
We carved not a line, we raised not a stone
But we left him alone in his glory.

Sherrifmuir, gentlemen, may I remind you, is on the Ochil Hills, in Perthshire, and is the place of my birth. No better example of the changes which the "whirligig of time brings round" could be imagined than that I, a Scotchman, should be here to-night endeavouring, however imperfectly, to propose the health of the Regiment which on the battlefields of Culloden, Falkirk, Glenshiel, and Sherrifmuir shot down Scotchmen, who, "more Royalist than the King," died for a lost cause and for the sake of "Bonnie Prince Charlie," and that on the throne of the splendid British Empire a Sovereign should reign in whose veins the blood of the Stuarts flows strong and vigorous and who by virtue of that blood nobly adorns that august throne as the legitimate Sovereign of the British Empire. The great historic battle at Waterloo recalls to recollection that there two of the greatest soldiers the world has ever seen—Wellington and Napoleon—faced each other in a fight for the mastery of Europe. The Regiment has taken part in many sieges and in many more captures, including Namur, Dunkirk, Valenciennes, Flushing, Sevastopol, Balaklava, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Trinidad, Mauritius the gem of the Indian Ocean and a most important haven and coaling station, &c. They also assisted in the conquest of Java, "the garden of the Eastern Seas," long before Hongkong was thought of. The Regiment were also in the front of one of the most serious battles England ever fought in India, viz., Bhurtpore. But I am unable to enter into further particulars of their achievements. I may add that among names on their colours are Tournay, Corrunna, Java, Waterloo, Bhurtpore, Sevastopol, New Zealand, and Afghanistan. The Regiment's historical records are a blaze of military honour as well as distinguished gallantry. Your worthy Colonel, Charles Stewart Gordon, is no doubt of Scottish descent and he strongly resembles a Gordon Highlander. He needs but the opportunity to do what fell to Colonel Mathias the other day to accomplish and who, in addressing the Gordon Highlanders on the Indian Frontier when called upon to rush a strong position on the Dargai Ridge, said, "Gordon Highlanders, the position must be taken at all costs and the Gordons will take it." It is not necessary to say the Highlanders did their duty, as the Fourteenth Regiment have done under similar circumstances over two centuries ago. The 14th were the first to arrive at the scene in Flanders in 1793, and after the capture of the Famars they formed part of the besieging army at Valenciennes and furnished a detachment for the storming of the Moshorn work. Col. Doyle in addressing them is reported to have said—"My lads, the general has done us a great honour. We have been selected to perform an important, and, I will not disguise from you, a dangerous duty. We have to carry yonder work, said to be mined underneath; we must carry it therefore in such fashion that the enemy may not have time, as he retires, to blow us and it up together. I want a hundred of you to follow me there. Volunteers, 'Recover arms.'" The whole Regiment recovered as one man. "Very good," said the Colonel, "then I'll take the hundred men next for duty." And with the hundred men next for duty the work was carried, and so rapidly that the enemy had no time to spring their mine. Britishers have every reason to be proud of such gallantry, and in all branches of manly sport in Hongkong, including the noble game of polo, at cricket, at football, at the Royal game of golf, in steeplechasing, &c., the Regiment has been in the van and in the various contests they have ever inspired the most healthy rivalry with fine sporting spirit. Col. Gordon has taken a deep interest in polo, and so has the gallant Major Grant Dalton, who has been a subscribing member of the Club throughout. Grant is a good Scotch name and the genial Major possesses in an eminent degree the best qualities of the race that hails from north of the Tweed. He was in great fettle and played quite at the top of his best form when the Regiment defeated the Royal Hongkong Golf Club the other day. Mr. Wood has been simply invaluable, whether at polo, at cricket, at golf, steeplechasing, or any other sport, and he is unquestionably the best all round man in Hongkong to-day. Young Gordon makes a splendid opposing "back."

at polo, and his unselfish play coupled with Wood's sure and hard hitting largely contributed to the Regiment's success at the recent tournaments. He and Wood well deserved the caps awarded them by the Hongkong Football Club for specially useful play in the Rugby matches, while the whole community are deeply indebted to the popular Bandmaster, Mr. Bentley, for the Band's splendid music, which will long be remembered, especially that dear old tune the quick march, "Ca Ira," acquired by the 14th at Famars. Mr. Bentley richly merited the Jubilee medal and the other interesting souvenirs he has received. The dauntless 14th Regiment were colonial expansionists long before Mr. Chamberlain's father was born, were "Jameson" raiders ere Dr. Jim was dreamt of, and they have captured any number of Crown colonies, including Trinidad and Mauritius. To that list they must now add another, viz., Hongkong, which has been captured, not with the rifle and the bayonet, or by the sword, but with and by their geniality, hospitality, good-fellowship, soldierly qualities, and duty well and thoroughly done. We feel assured that so long as England can produce such Regiments as "The Prince of Wales' Own," whose badge is the white horse of Hanover with the motto "Nec aspera terrent"—"Not even difficulties alarm us"—so long will the prestige of the country and the traditions of the British Army be maintained unsullied. Hongkong earnestly wishes the Fourteenth Regiment, or "the old and bold," a continued career of usefulness and distinguished service in whatever part of Her Majesty's dominions duty may lead them.—(Prolonged cheering, followed by "For they are jolly good fellows.")

Colonel GORDON said—Mr. Whitehead and gentlemen, I suppose it is usual to make a speech on these occasions, and I beg to express my hearty thanks for the very flattering way in which your Chairman has spoken of the Regiment, whose records he appears to know better than I do myself. I daresay we did fight in Scotland against his kith and kin, and here we have also had the honour of meeting Scotchmen in various contests. I am proud that we have been able to carry several of these off, in cricket, football, racquets, and polo, and I trust we have reminded Scotchmen of the victory of former years and that we appreciate them as much if not more than they do us. Polo I think is a sport to be thoroughly encouraged. I have played in India, but there is a time in every one's life when these noble games have to be abandoned. Nevertheless, my interest in the game has in no way diminished and I must say it was a proud moment for me when I saw my Regimental team on three consecutive occasions win the cup, more especially as my son was one of the team on each occasion. Mr. Whitehead and gentlemen, we greatly appreciate your hospitality and good fellowship and I beg again to thank you very sincerely on behalf of the 14th Regiment for the cordial words in which the toast was proposed and the very enthusiastic manner in which you have drunk our health.

Mr. MAY said—Mr. Chairman, Colonel Gordon, and gentlemen, to me has been entrusted to-night the honour of proposing the toast of the playing members of the XIVth, "Prince of Wales' Own" Regiment. I do so with a very great deal of pleasure, for I feel, and I am sure that we all feel, that the guests to-night have not only given invaluable support to the game since they have been here, but by the excellent play of their Regimental team have greatly improved polo in Hongkong. I have on my right Major Grant Dalton, and our thanks are due to him for his support of the game. He was, I think, the first of the Regiment to join our Club, and although we have unfortunately not had him playing with us he has by his encouragement, criticism, and advice greatly contributed to promote and improve the game. Then there is Captain Lush, all flushed with victory from Foochow, where following the example set him by Mr. Wood he has won laurels on the flat. Captain Price's genial countenance wherever he goes sheds such a glow of sunshine around him that it would enliven the scene and infuse contentment on any polo ground, and his presence on a cold bleak afternoon such as we have had of late counteracts any tendency to depression and makes all who are present feel happy. There is Captain Barry Drew sitting on my left. Of him as a fellow country-

man I am justly proud. In the last tournament he was called upon at the last moment to fill in his Regimental team the place of one who Captain Drew will be the first to admit was a better player than himself. I allude to that sterling player Mr. Tew, who is unfortunately not able to be here to-night. But like a true Irishman Captain Drew rose to the emergency and played for his Regiment an invaluable game, proving himself a very tower of strength in both defence and attack. In Mr. King I think you will agree with me we have had not only a very promising polo player, but more than a prince—a very King among A.D.C.s—who has shewn us all how the manifold duties of such office can be well and quietly executed. Mr. Spencer has justly received much praise for his play in the last three tournaments. The success of the Regimental team was in no small measure due to him, and I am sure that, given the opportunity to play, he has before him a brilliant polo career. The highest compliment I can pay Mr. Gordon is to say that he is a "chip of the old block." We civilians have all admired the soldierly qualities of Colonel Gordon, and it is due to the fact that the son has inherited those qualities from the father that Mr. Gordon has been enabled to play the unselfish and watchful but yet plucky dashing game that he has exhibited as No. 1 of the team. If ever Mr. Gordon is called upon to fight for his country, I feel sure that the same qualities will lead him to win glory on the battle field. I miss my first mate in the *Phæbe*, Captain Phillips. I wish he were here that I might take the opportunity of thanking him for his hard and very efficient work with me during the past and present yachting seasons. He is a very keen polo player and the best I can wish him is that he will become as fine a player as he is a yachtsman. There remains only Mr. Wood to mention. Curiously enough I dreamt of him the other night. I dreamt that I was home on leave and down at Hurlingham to watch an important polo match. One of the players distinguished himself exceedingly and I thought that in the perfect, easy seat, the lithe figure, and the ruddy locks, I recognised a former Hongkong player. After the match was over and the player I was particularly watching had to stop hitting goals, I drew near and recognised in the hero of the hour the brilliant captain of the XVth Regiment's team. I am sure that my dream will come true and that if Mr. Wood has only the opportunities to continue playing he will some day attain the very front rank of polo players. To him as captain of his Regimental team is due the credit of the organisation which ensured to it victory, and to him are due the thanks of all Hongkong polo players for the impetus that his exertions have given to the game—(cheers and musical honours).

Mr. WOOD said—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I thank you very much for the very kind way in which you have drunk my health and the health of the Regiment team of which I have the honour of being Captain. We are very much indebted to Mr. May for so very generously presenting a cup to be played for, which has done a great deal to improve polo here. On our arrival in the colony and hearing of this cup I determined that we must endeavour to have a shot for it. In our first attempt, handicapped as we were with only four indifferent ponies between us, we made a very poor show, as we were beaten by the Gunners by 7 goals to 2. Thereafter we made strenuous efforts to raise some more and better ponies and get our team together, with the result that we have been successful in winning the cup three times in succession, which I attribute a great deal to the fact of the unfortunate illness of Captain Loveband, one of our best players, who was unable to compete in any of the teams against us on the last three occasions. I must say I have had a very good time in Hongkong. I have never been in a place where sport was so thoroughly supported in every branch and I am sure when we are in Singapore, on every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday we shall think of the good games of polo we had on Causeway Bay and long to be there. Before sitting down I wish to propose the health of Captain Burney and the Gunner team. Captain Burney has done a lot for polo here and if it had not been for his untiring energy and sporting instincts in always bringing a gunner team

to the fore and working up polo generally we should not have had such good matches during the past year. I want you to drink the health of Captain Burney and the Gunner team. (Applause).

Captain BURNLEY said—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, Mr. Wood made an excellent speech and was very complimentary to the gunners. At the same time he had no authority to keep the ball rolling in the speech-making line. However, I knew what a polo dinner usually led to, so I brought a few notes about the cup which the Regiment have just won, as I thought they might be of interest. It was first played for on 17th April, 1896, when representative teams could not be raised. Mr. Alexander, of the Rifle Brigade, kindly consented to make up four teams from among the polo players, and the result was an excellent tournament which ended in a win for Capt. Loveband's team after a very even game with my own. Indeed the tussle was only decided in the last few seconds of play by a brilliant stroke by Capt. Loveband himself. The next occasion was on the 11th August, 1896, when three teams competed, the Rifle Brigade, the Gunners, and the Club. Here again I met my old opponent Capt. Loveband, who was in the Club team, and they beat us rather hollow. The next occasion was at the beginning of the present year, when the West Yorkshire Regiment had only just arrived and the R.A. won their tie against them rather easily. In the final the Club team, again thanks to Capt. Loveband, defeated the Gunners, and the next three times, viz., on 21st April, 1897, 6th August, 1897, and 26th November last, as has already been said, the Regiment won, and I think every credit is due to them for this achievement. It shows what a sporting lot they are and I must thank Mr. Wood for the kind way in which he mentioned my name and that of the Gunner team. The R.A. have always been at a marked disadvantage at polo, firstly, on account of the paucity of young officers, and, secondly, that among those we have we are compelled always to have two on detachment, one at Lyemun and one at Stonecutters. I am, however, happy to say that we expect an increase in our numbers at an early date. Among the Asiatic Artillery alone, to which I have the pleasure to belong, we are to get an increase of nine officers—one Major, two Captains, and six Subalterns—and I think that then we should be able to knock together a team good enough to walk off with this new cup which Mr. May has so generously offered to present; at least I can assure you it will not be from any want of effort on my part. (Cheers). Before sitting down I wish you all to join with me in a bumper to our genial and worthy Secretary, the gallant Capt. Loveband, whom we are all rejoiced to see back again on the polo field in his usual good form and health.

The toast was drunk with musical honours.

Capt. LOVEBAND said—Mr. Whitehead and gentlemen, before coming here to-night I was shewn a list of those who were to propose and reply to the various toasts and my name was not amongst them, so I thought I was to be allowed a peaceful repast. I feel more than grateful for the very kind way in which my health has been proposed and the very cordial way in which it has been drunk to-night. Mr. Wood most generously implied that if I had been playing during the summer he did not think that the 14th Regiment would have been so successful, but although I was captain of teams which succeeded in winning the cup on the first three occasions, the last being when the Regiment were defeated, when they possessed only four ponies and those four none of the best, since my return I have noticed a vast improvement in the play of the Regiment and I feel sure that my humble efforts would not have prevented them from carrying off Mr. May's cup. I hear that at Singapore, where there is no polo, they mean to keep their money in their pockets and on arrival in India to buy some good ponies. I think they are wise, for however good a man may be at the game he can't do very much unless fairly well mounted, and I am sure the Regiment will give a good account of themselves when they do arrive in India. I may add that the China pony is a good deal better than he looks, both at polo and racing, and I think all those who have tried him will bear me out. My advice to all who can ride is to spend \$100 on a pony and play

polo. I am afraid it is not the usual excuse of equestrians, "no time," but "the will" that is wanting.

Several other toasts followed including "The Chairman," who after replying proposed the health of the worthy father of the club, Major Walter B. Fletcher, Royal Artillery, and Capt. Geo. F. Phillips and Mr. C. C. Blackburne Tew of the West Yorkshire, the latter two officers being absent through indisposition. The toast was warmly pledged and a thoroughly enjoyable evening terminated with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

COURT MARTIAL IN HONGKONG.

A BOY STRIKES THE "EDGAR" CAPTAIN.

On 10th January a first class boy named Aloysius Mitchell, seventeen years of age, was court-martialled on board H.M.S. *Edgar* for assaulting Captain King Hall with both fists.

The Court was composed of Captain the Hon. Hedworth Lambton, H.M.S. *Powerful*, President; Commander Sparks, H.M.S. *Linnet*; Commander Kingsmill, H.M.S. *Archer*; Commander Smith Dorien, H.M.S. *Alacrity*; and Commander W. H. F. Taylor, H.M.S. *Tamar*. Mr. V. Lawford was Judge-Advocate.

The prisoner committed the offence after being tried on a charge of theft. He was found guilty, and when this decision was communicated to him he leaned over the table and struck Captain King Hall on the chest with both fists.

When the charge of assault was read over to the prisoner he pleaded guilty and therefore no evidence was taken.

Prisoner handed in the following statement for the consideration of the Court—To the President and members of this Honourable Court, I humbly appeal for mitigation of the punishment I cannot hope to avoid. I had been brought before Captain King Hall on a charge of theft, of which I was innocent, in spite of the evidence against me. I counted upon my character being cleared of the accusation, but to my horror I was adjudged guilty and sentenced to a severe punishment. The shock of being publicly branded as a thief threw me into a sudden fit of passion and I lost all control over myself, but I have no distinct recollection of striking my captain. In respectfully begging the members of this Honourable Court to believe I am heartily sorry and ashamed of the serious offence to which I have pleaded guilty, I entreat them to take into their merciful consideration (1) that I have been for over six weeks already a prisoner (2), my youth and inexperience, and to grant me a fresh opportunity of regaining my character. I will earnestly endeavour in the future to prove myself grateful for any clemency shown to me, and as an earnest of this can appeal to those under whose charge I have been whilst a prisoner.

The Court sentenced the prisoner to twenty-four strokes with the birch rod, imprisonment for eighteen months with hard labour, and to be dismissed the service.

THE ROAD ROUND THE ISLAND.

The road round the island, which is to be one of the permanent memorials of the Diamond Jubilee year, is now in a fair way to become an actual fact. Progress cannot be observed by the general public, simply because the work up to the present has consisted solely of surveying. Mr. Hughes, of the Royal Engineers, was detailed to carry out the survey and he commenced at the Shaukiwan end. It is here that the greatest difficulty of defining the line for the continuing road presented itself. It is manifest of course that a good carriage road must be constructed and to carry out this purpose it was found to be impossible to build a road with an easy gradient near the Lyemooon coast; therefore the existing road branching off to Taitam Tuk will be improved upon and utilized. Already three miles of the road have been surveyed and it is expected that the whole of this preliminary work will be completed in about three months. The road will then probably be divided into two or three sections, estimates of the cost will be made by the Director of Public Works, and tenders called for. When finished the road will be from 27

to 30 miles in length. The heaviest work in cutting the road will be round Mount Davis, which is very rough and rocky. It is thought that the idea which has been generally expressed of commencing the road both at the Shaukiwan and Kennedytown ends will be carried out.

THE DOUBLE MURDER IN SHELLEY STREET.

The man charged with murdering a woman and her son in a house in Shelley Street was again charged at the Police Court on 6th Jan. before Hon. H. E. Wodehouse.

Father Torres of the Spanish Procuration, was called. He said—The defendant was a rent collector for the Spanish Procuration and had been in our employ for twenty years. I do not know why he killed the deceased. As far as I know he had not quarrelled with them.

His Worship asked Inspector Hanson what the witness knew of the case.

Inspector Hanson replied that the witness knew that the prisoner was at one time treated with much favour until he misappropriated several thousand dollars he had collected as rents. The suggestion was that he was jealous of another man who had superseded him in the Father's confidence.

Witness, continuing, said—The defendant collected rents for us for about six years. About six years ago I discovered that he had committed defalcations and I had to hand over the collection of rents to somebody else. It had also been the custom to give the prisoner surplus wine to sell, but about five months ago I left off supplying him with it because he did not pay for it, and I gave the wine to Li Fat, one of the deceased. I am in the habit of buying medicine from a man in Macao, and up till lately I have used the prisoner as an agent between this man and myself, and I would pay the money through the prisoner. The last time the man came with the medicine from Macao before the murders were committed was the day before the murders. I paid him by cheque personally. I did so because the people in Macao who supplied the medicine asked me not to pay through the prisoner. Ever since the defalcations I have been losing confidence in the prisoner. He was a good servant, but I could not trust him in money matters. I have sometimes thought him a little mad. The deceased Li Fat was my houseboy. On the morning of the 14th November he assisted me at mass, which finished at 6 a.m. That was the last time I saw him alive. About two months ago prisoner told him he was going to leave us. He said he was the sole supporter of his family and he thought he could get more money by going up the West River. On more than one occasion lately I have had to tell the prisoner that I was not pleased with him. By his manner he has several times of late shown that he was not pleased, and I think the reason was that he was not so much trusted as before, although he has not complained that I have not trusted him. He has not actually asked for an increase of wages, but I understood that that was what he wanted. I did not give him an increase. I gave him an increase from \$10 to \$15 about a year ago.

A ward boy in the Government Civil Hospital said he asked the prisoner why he wished to die. Prisoner said, "Untie that letter round my leg and you will see." The letter was written in Chinese. He also said he did not know why he committed the crime.

The case was adjourned until the following day, when the prisoner was committed for trial.

THE TRIAD SOCIETY CASE.

The case in which thirty-two men were charged with attending a meeting of the Triad Society on the 4th December concluded on 6th January.

The evidence showed that the police raided a house in Yee On Lane and found the prisoners there and all the paraphernalia connected with the meetings of the Triad Society.

At the conclusion of the evidence his Worship asked the defendants if they had anything to say, and one of them denied that the Society was secret; he said it was all "joss" business.

In reply to His Worship Mr. Dennys (Crown Solicitor), who appeared for the prosecution, said he would be satisfied if a fine were inflicted,

but he would also like the defendants to be warned that another similar offence would be most seriously dealt with.

His Worship said that in attending the meeting the defendants had disobeyed the law of the colony. They asked him to believe they went there to worship, but that was certainly not the case. The law expressly declared the Triad Society to be an unlawful Society. The defendants were not known to be criminals, nor did they look like criminals. They called themselves chair coolies, which very likely they were. By attending the meeting they had rendered themselves liable to six months' imprisonment, and if they carried on the Society on the mainland they would get into very serious trouble. He intended to inflict a substantial fine in nearly all the cases so that they would remember it. The first and second prisoner would be committed for trial, the sixth, who was not present, would be dealt with in a week's time, and the remainder would have to pay \$25 or go to gaol for six weeks.

THE BLACK SHEEP OF HONGKONG.

PROPOSAL TO BANISH THEM.

A special meeting of the Justices of the Peace was held on 7th Jan. to further consider the application of George Henry Schwalm for a publican's licence for the premises formerly known as the Grand Hotel, Nos. 240, 242, and 244 Queen's Road Central, under the sign of the Central Hotel.

The Justices present were—Hon. H. E. Wodehouse (Police Magistrate), Hon. F. H. May (Captain Superintendent of Police), Rev. R. F. Cobbold, Dr. Clark, Messrs. Granville Sharp, C. S. Sharp, H. Wicking, and W. M. B. Arthur.

The CHAIRMAN said that the Justices adjourned the application on the last occasion in order that the *bona fides* of the application might be ascertained with a view to making some enquiry into the character of the applicant. The result of the enquiry was a report which a sergeant of police had forwarded to the Captain Superintendent of Police.

The report, which the Chairman read, gave the applicant's history for the last three years. The record was a very black one. He was formerly a soldier in the French army and while stationed in Saigon became acquainted with Mrs. May Yorke, an immoral woman. The couple afterwards went to a brothel in Singapore, but the man got into money difficulties and about eighteen months ago the pair ran away from Singapore and came to Hongkong. They lived in Wyndham Street as husband and wife. Both in Singapore and Hongkong the man acted as a pimp for the woman, who was engaged as barmaid in the Stag Hotel and afterwards in the Globe Hotel. In May, 1897, Schwalm got employment in the German Consulate during the absence on leave of the secretary. When the secretary returned there was no further need for Schwalm's services and he left. He was not possessed of any money.

After reading the report the CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, it is with a strong feeling of indignation that I read this report to you. Your time and attention have been given up to a deliberate attempt to impose upon you—to take you in. The Ordinance under which the consideration of licences is given to the Justices is 21 of 1886, and there is no doubt that the intention of that Ordinance is that the Justices shall make proper enquiry into the character of an applicant for a licence and shall satisfy themselves not only that an applicant is a man of good character but also that he is not a man of straw. He must be a man of substance and of some standing in the colony. The Ordinance requires that before a licence is granted he shall enter into recognizances according to the nature of the licence he requires. That recognizance contains the following certificate.—"We, the undersigned householders, certify that the above-named applicant is a person of good fame and reputation and fit and proper to be licenced to sell intoxicating liquors as aforesaid." In this case the names of the proposed sureties were Leung Kwan Shun and Lin Kee, and we heard last week that the condition of their surety was that this man was to get his aerated waters from them if he got his licence. My experience

of these sureties and the assurances of the householder is that the good reputation of the applicants has nearly always been found to consist in the mere undertaking on the part of the applicants to obtain liquors from the sureties in the event of the licence being granted. I think it is quite clear, gentlemen, that the present system of granting licences does not contain a sufficient security that the men to whom we grant licences are fit and proper persons to sell intoxicating liquors. A few weeks ago some resolutions were informally drawn up regarding the sale of deleterious liquors and those resolutions were forwarded to the Government for consideration. The Government has sent a reply to that communication and it is proposed to call a meeting of the Justices at the City Hall for some day next week, when the reply will be read to the Justices and their advice taken on the next step that will have to be made. This particular application has not been formally withdrawn of course, but there is nothing more to do now than to refuse it. I may also inform you that the applicant is at present before the Magistrate on a charge of obtaining \$500 by false pretences. The German Consul was a witness in that case and he said that when he employed Schwalm, so far from possessing any money, the first thing the man did was to try to obtain a loan of \$100 from the Consul. The Medical Officer in the gaol now states that the man has been suffering from insane delusions, and I think that one of his insane delusions must have been the idea that by bringing forward a bogus agreement of the kind he showed us the other day between parties of the character of Hook Goon and himself that he could impose upon you by the mere impression of a ten cent stamp and the intervention of a solicitor. I am extremely sorry, gentlemen, that your time has been taken up for no purpose—I will not say for no purpose, but with such an application as this one. That is all the business there is, gentlemen, unless any one wishes to make any observations. I may add that in future applications for licences or for transfers will be considered by the Justices at a particular time, and that time will be at noon on the first Tuesday after the end of each quarter. An advertisement will appear in the paper and a regular notice sent to you.

Mr. GRANVILLE SHARP—Would it be competent for us to say anything or to put anything on record in support of the remark that has fallen from yourself as to the inadequacy of the present arrangements for securing a sufficient knowledge of the character of an applicant?

The CHAIRMAN—I think, gentlemen, it is competent for you to do anything you please at this meeting.

Mr. GRANVILLE SHARP—I move that the remarks of the Chairman be brought to the notice of the Government.

Mr. C. S. SHARP—I think we had better pass a formal resolution in regard to this application first of all.

The CHAIRMAN—I did not move a formal resolution, but I take it that you unanimously reject this application?

The Justices nodded assent.

Mr. WICKING—If a man comes here and deliberately makes a false statement, is he not liable to punishment?

The CHAIRMAN—No, I am afraid he is not. We have no power to swear him; he could not have been put on oath. If he had made an affidavit and the affidavit had turned out to be untrue he would have been liable.

Mr. WICKING—I consider he has been guilty of disgraceful conduct.

The CHAIRMAN—It is scandalous to treat a body of Justices in the way this man has done. I quite agree with every word you have said. Your time is valuable, and it is no wish of ours to see these pimps and parasites obtaining a living here. I should be glad to see the Government exercise their power and banish everyone of them from the colony. (Hear, hear.) They merely prey upon Society and are not of the slightest use in the colony.

Mr. GRANVILLE SHARP then moved—"That the Justices request the Magistrate to lay the opinions he has just expressed upon the inadequacy of the present system to secure sufficient knowledge of the character of applicants for licences to sell intoxicating liquors before the Government."

Mr. G. MURRAY BAIN—I have very great pleasure in seconding that.

Hon. F. H. MAY—I do not think that is where the shoe pinches. We know all about these people.

Mr. GRANVILLE SHARP—We might add the request that some further guarantees be required.

Hon. F. H. MAY—I think that what you want to do is to ask the Government to rid the colony of that class of people.

Mr. G. MURRAY BAIN—We could easily add "with a view to ridding the colony of such men as the one whose application has been rejected."

Hon. F. H. MAY—I have reason to believe that most of these people have been moved on from other places and that this is the dumping ground of other states.

Mr. WICKING—Can they be deported?

The CHAIRMAN—I believe the Government has power to banish them so long as they are not British born.

The CHAIRMAN—I will undertake to bring this matter fully to the notice of the Government so that they may be quite aware of what has taken place.

The meeting then terminated.

A STEAMER SUNK AT SHANGHAI.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]
Shanghai, 9th January.

This morning Messrs. Bennertz and Co.'s steamer *Kiangning*, with twenty thousand cases of oil on board, sank in the Woosung River as she was leaving for Hankow.

GREAT EASTERN AND CALEDONIAN GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

The following report has been received from the manager at the mines:—

Mount Macdonald, 14th December, 1897.

Prospecting Shaft, Gold Lease 37, is now down 48 feet from the brace, and sets and slabs have been put in within about 8 feet from the bottom. The ground is good for sinking and consequently we have been getting on well. The reef formation now extends from hanging wall to footwall, and although the quartz does not show any free gold yet the character of the formation—quartz and country rock mixed and highly mineralized—leads us to expect that we shall come soon upon pure stone. The hanging wall moreover has become very smooth and well defined during the last few sinks and all that points to the proximity of a lode.

Great Eastern Main Shaft has reached a depth of 86 feet actual sinking. Although tough ground for boring, it shoots well. About a week ago we started pulling by horsepower. I expect to see this shaft down 100 feet by New Year; it is timbered down to 71 feet. In cutting the whip road (for the horse to walk along) we have come across quite a number of reefs, converging all upon the one point in the main lode, mentioned in former reports. The value of these leaders can of course only be ascertained by cutting them at a depth, and as the whip road lies in the same direction as our crosscut west later on at 200 feet depth will go, we are naturally very anxious to know what they will turn out. We have tried so far the two reefs nearest the shaft by mortar test—one, a small reef and the other one 18 inches wide, but within a few feet of each other; both reefs show a little free gold and plenty of mineral. We have of course only cut the caps of the reefs a few inches below the surface of the hill.

Zulu Main Shaft, at the point where we had every reason to cut a new chute of gold from the look of the formation we were sinking on, the latter, after being sunk on only a few feet, has played us the trick of jumping away almost at right angles into the hanging wall. We had of course to follow this formation in its new direction to see whether it would cut back, and that explains why only four feet have been added to the shaft since the 26th November, the total depth from the brace being now 76 feet; the shaft is timbered within about 8 feet from the bottom. In drilling the holes, the formation yields a lot of water, which should be another indication of the proximity of a lode, but if we do not come across the chute soon we must continue the shaft in its old underlie and crosscut for the reef later on.

Caledonian Shaft remains unfortunately very hard ground to get along in and consequently only 10 feet have been added since my last report, making a total depth of 64 ft. from the surface and timbered within a few feet of the bottom. We seem to be passing through a hard blue bar and unless we are through it we cannot expect softer ground.

Surface Work—The stable has been finished and a small space been fenced in round it with wire, the whole being very inexpensive work. We have now three horses for pulling and have plenty of work for them, two doing duty so far at the Great Eastern shaft and the other one is being used in the tipcart and for fetching logs, etc. The quartz belonging to the Company in the old Great Eastern drive has been hauled to the surface, about 35 tons, of which five tons will be sent, along with five tons from the Zulu and five tons from the Caledonians, to the Krupp-Gruson works in Magdeburg, to be tested in various ways as to the best mode of treatment. The lot will leave the Mount in about one fortnight.

Water remains very scarce; there is hardly any water in the dam and we are anxiously looking forward for a heavy rainfall.

THE NEW BALMORAL GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

The General Managers, Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son, have received the following report from their mining manager by steamer *Australian*:—

Mount Macdonald,

14th December, 1897.

I have to report that, after a temporary suspension of 14 days, work was resumed in the Queen Mine on Monday, the 6th inst. Shaft sunk for week four feet, total from surface 337 feet, ground hard and bad for blasting. This is the only work at present, with the exception of removal of Battery. Contractor making good progress.

OLIVERS FREEHOLD MINES, LIMITED.

The General Managers, Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son, have received the following report from their mining manager by steamer *Australian*:—

Mount Macdonald, 14th December, 1897.

I have to report work done since reporting on the 3rd inst. as follows:—

Eureka Mine.—Main shaft sunk 4½ feet; total from surface 300 feet, leaving only 6 feet to sink for well before opening out chamber for 300 feet; ground in bottom hard and difficult to work. Water troublesome. Regard progress being made by men working satisfactory. Stopping is being carried on at the back of 150 ft. and 200 feet levels and in both places there are large quantities of payable ore in sight. Nothing has been done on G. L. 105 since last report, owing to foul air consequent on prolonged hot weather we are having, but preparations will be made to resume sinking after the New Year.

Olivers Battery—On the 5th inst., two days after writing last report, the holding down bolts in two of the stamper boxes broke, which necessitated 10 heads being stopped for four days pending the bolts being replaced by much stronger ones. The other 10 heads were kept going and put through 100 tons in 6 days for a very satisfactory yield, viz., 61 oz. 4 dwt. retorted gold. Since the 9th the 20 heads have been working well and a general cleaning and washing up will take place on the 24th inst.

The Norwegian steamer *Astrid* collided with the steamers *Kweilin* and *Pronto* when entering Moji harbour on the 23rd December. A strong tide was running at the time and there was a stiff westerly wind blowing. The steamer became unmanageable for a time, and collided with both the *Kweilin* and the *Pronto*. The *Astrid* had one plate stove in, but so far as had been ascertained when this information left Moji neither of the other steamers sustained much injury. The *Astrid*, which is a steamer of 975 tons net, is being repaired at Bakan. There were no less than twenty-five steamers in harbour at Moji on Christmas Day. In the heavy weather that has prevailed of late it has been impossible to load vessels at Moji.—*Kobe Herald*.

CRICKET.

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB V. NAVY.

The spin of the coin, some indifferent, if not bad, fielding on the part of the Navy, and fairly good batting and bowling on the part of the landmen, combined to give the Club a substantial victory by four wickets and 94 runs. Beginning to bat with Dyson and the Hon. Secretary, the former, at two, lost his wicket in a manner which is still an enigma to him. Lammert joined Smith and helped to raise the score to 80 before retiring for a creditable 32. The Secretary and Treasurer then got together and added another 47 runs when Smith, who had been batting an hour and a half and had been kept away from tiffin for 10 minutes by the slowness of the Pavilion clock, had to go, being well caught in the slips for a lucky 68. After tiffin Vallings joined Maitland and showed that with the return of the *Ceylon* he had come back to form, a result which had been foretold. He smote hard and quite overshadowed Maitland, whose departure for a well got 35 only urged Vallings to greater feats which culminated in two sixes off Shelford; no chance occurred in his well hit 65. Hartland, a visitor, aided Vallings in putting on the last 50 runs and was not out when the innings was declared closed at 2:8 for 6 wickets. Wall of H.M.S. *Powerful* had four wickets for 79, a good debut, though he probably wants a faster pitch than Saturday's was on which to do himself justice. Just after 3 p.m. the Navy went in to bat, but with nothing except a draw to play for. Judging however, from some of the performances, not every member of the eleven realised what were the proper tactics. Four wickets having succumbed for 36 runs, Dewar and Hastings, by lusty hitting, carried the score to 88, at which the former, having just knocked a pair of sixes off Vallings, was bowled by a ball with a lot of work on it for a dashing innings of 34. He was shortly followed by Hastings who showed his old form and played the best and biggest innings of his side. Anderson effected his dismissal by a good catch at third man. Subsequently, Egerton, Dalrymple, and Shelford, all playing carefully, might have effected a draw had not the last named been unnecessarily called for a short run. Vallings was the most successful bowler, followed closely by Smith and Lammert; but it was rottenness in the state of Denmark rather than the absolute superiority of the Club that made the victory so pronounced.

By kind permission of Captain The Honourable Hedworth Lambton, R.N., and Officers, the Band of H.M.S. *Powerful* played a pleasing selection of music during the afternoon.

Appended are the score and analysis:—

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB

T. Sercombe Smith, c Ravenshaw, b Wall	68				
Captain Dyson, A.P.D., b Dewar	0				
R. F. Lammert, c Shelford, b Wall	32				
F. Maitland, c Nicholas, b Wall	35				
Rev. Vallings, b Wall	65				
P. A. Cox, st. Pead, b Dewar	2				
W. H. Hartland, not out	12				
Captain Langhorne, A. G. Ward, E. Mast, and Anderson, did not bat	14				
Extras	14				
Total for six wickets	228				

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Overs	Maid	Runs	Wides	N.B.	Wickets
Lt. Shelford	11	1	39	—	2
G. Dewar	15	2	51	—	4
Wall	23	11	73	—	—
Hastings	7	1	21	—	—
Ravenshaw	13	2	25	2	1

ROYAL NAVY.

Dr. Pead, b Sercombe Smith	4				
Wall, b R. F. Lammert	0				
Hastings, c Anderson, b Vallings	45				
Rawson, c and b R. F. Lammert	1				
Tuck, b Sercombe Smith	7				
Dewar, b Vallings	34				
Nicholas, c and b Vallings	0				
Egerton, c Smith, b Vallings	14				
Dalrymple, not out	10				
Shelford, run out	7				
Ravenshaw, c Ward, b Sercombe Smith	0				
Extras	8				
Total	134				

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Overs	Maid	Runs	Wides	N.B.	Wickets
Sercombe Smith	10.4	2	37	—	3
R. F. Lammert	10	—	34	—	2
Vallings	10	2	33	—	4
P. A. Cox	3	—	16	—	—
E. Mast	6	1	11	—	—

THE ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

CAPTAIN'S CUP FOR JANUARY.

Quite a goodly number of competitors entered for the monthly event and the returns sent in show improvement on the scores recently recorded:—

CAPTAIN'S CUP.		
Mr. W. J. Saunders	96	15
Mr. E. M. Knox	100	16
Mr. J. Thurburn	97	11
Mr. C. Palmer	97	10
Capt. R. M. Rumsey, R.N.	96	8
Mr. A. J. McClure	106	16
Mr. E. A. Ram	99	9
Mr. H. L. Dalrymple	100	8
Com. Taylor, R.N.	104	11
Mr. C. A. Tomes	101	8
Mr. J. Hastings	108	12

24 entries.

POOL.		
Mr. V. A. C. Hawkins	91	8
Dr. Pead, R.N.	96	12
Mr. W. A. Duff	100	12
Mr. P. de C. Morris	101	13
Mr. C. W. May	93	4
Mr. A. J. McClure	106	16
Mr. C. Palmer	100	10
Com. Taylor, R.N.	101	11
Mr. H. L. Dalrymple	100	8
Mr. C. A. Tomes	101	8

19 entries.

QUARTERLY MEETING.

A very fair number of members assembled on the links to compete for the various events. The weather was all that could be desired, but the greens, which were very keen, rather puzzled the majority of players and the returns as a rule are not quite so good as those recorded earlier in the month.

The Club has been strengthened by the arrival of H.M.S. *Powerful*, amongst whose officers is at least one who has covered the links in scratch form, though in his round for the cups it would appear that he had, like many of his "class," discovered that the race is not always to the swift, and that our links are not so easy to negotiate as they on first acquaintance would seem to be.

The following are the scores returned:—

MACEWEN CUP.		
Mr. E. M. Knox	99	15
Capt. R. M. Rumsey	92	8
Mr. G. Stewart	88	3
Capt. G. F. Phillips	90	3
Mr. A. J. McClure	104	16
Mr. G. Millward	104	15
Capt. Urmston	94	0

22 entries.

* Also entered for the "optional sweepstakes," for which there were three entries in all.

BOGEY CUP.		
Mr. E. R. Morris	1 down, rec.	11 strokes
Mr. P. de C. Morris	2	10
Capt. R. M. Rumsey	2	6
Mr. G. Stewart	3	2
Capt. G. F. Phillips	4	2
Mr. A. S. McClure	6	12
Mr. G. Millward	6	11
Capt. Urmston, R.M.L.I.	7	0
Mr. H. L. Dalrymple	8	6
Mr. H. Smith	9	11

15 entries.

POOL.		
Mr. G. Stewart	88	3
Capt. G. F. Phillips	90	3
Mr. A. J. McClure	104	16
Capt. Urmston, R.M.L.I.	94	0

11 entries.

Members will be glad to learn that the links at Deep Water Bay have been considerably extended and opened up, three new greens having been prepared, whilst two more will be made to replace some very indifferent ones. This course is now a 10 hole one, but will eventually become one of 9 holes. We hear that Colonel Bogey has negotiated the 20 holes with the extremely good record of 82, which, considering the sporting character of the course and the numerous hazards necessitating very straight driving, we think it will take some time to surpass. The annual meeting of members will be held during the current month, at which, in addition to the usual busi-

ness, power will be asked for with a view to the erection of a Club House on the Deep Water Bay Links, which will add much to the comfort and convenience of the members.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

FIFTH CLUB RACE, 9TH JANUARY.

The course was from the Police Pier, Kowloon, round the north fairway buoy, Cosmopolitan Dock buoy, Kowloon Rock, and Channel Rocks, all to starboard, 12 miles.

The following boats started, the second class at 1.20 p.m. and the first class at 1.30 p.m.:—

SECOND CLASS.

Dart	Dr. Clark
Payne	Officers, R.E.
Ladybird	Mr. C. D. Wilkinson
Aileen	Capt. Phillips

FIRST CLASS.

Active	Mr. H. E. Pollock
Meteor	Mr. T. W. Lammert
Maid Marian	Mr. J. Hastings
Phoebe	Mr. F. H. May
Erica	Mr. A. Denison
Sybil	Officers, R.E.
Chanticleer	Mr. C. A. Tomes

The wind was about east south east of good whole sail strength and steady all through, except a small patch of calm off Blackhead's Point. All the second class boats except Aileen had new sails and they shewed very much improved form until the Aileen carried away her bobstay and the Dart her peak halyard.

In the first class Erica went away with the lead and kept it all day. It was a run down to the fairway buoy and a reach to Cosmopolitan Dock buoy, when the times were:—

	H.	M.	S.
Payne	2	1	45
Dart	2	2	45
Ladybird	2	3	0
Erica	2	10	8
Maid Marian	2	11	50
Meteor	2	12	0
Phoebe	2	12	12
Active	2	13	22
Chanticleer	2	13	30
Sybil	2	14	30

In the beat up to Kowloon Point, Dart carried away her peak halyards, and all the A class boats passed her before reaching Kowloon Rock. Maid Marian had been passed by Meteor, Phoebe, and Chanticleer before passing the Rock and Erica had passed all the B class boats. The times here were:—

	H.	M.	S.
Erica	3	11	25
Ladybird	3	14	32
Payne	3	16	20
Meteor	3	17	32
Phoebe	3	18	0
Chanticleer	3	18	25
Maid Marian	3	19	10
Active	3	19	50

Sybil and Dart were not timed.

The wind increased a little on the way to Channel Rocks, and Chanticleer passed Phoebe and Payne, which was also caught by Maid Marian, and Phoebe. An uneventful run brought the boats to the finish at:—

A CLASS.

	H.	M.	S.	
Erica	3	57	27	First
Meteor	4	6	27	Second
Chanticleer	4	7	40	Third
Maid Marian	4	8	1	
Phoebe	4	8	26	
Active	4	10	55	
Sybil	4	19	36	

B CLASS.

	H.	M.	S.	
Ladybird	4	6	15	First
Payne	4	8	52	Second
Dart	4	25	3	Third

The number of marks gained to date are as follows:—

A CLASS.

Erica	38	Ladybird	38
Maid Marian	22	Payne	32
Meteor	8	Dart	3
Active	4	She	1
Chanticleer	2		
Phoebe	1		

CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

MR. OTTOMAR HAUPT AND THE EASTERN EXCHANGES.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—In your issue of the 5th January you give some remarks on the Eastern Exchanges from Mr. Ottomar Haupt, published in the *Financial Times* from this gentleman's Paris letter dated 27th November, 1897, referring to my remarks in a letter to your paper dated 22nd Oct. last, in which I said that it is misleading to base the rate of sterling exchange in Hongkong on the price of Mexican dollars in the London market. Mr. Haupt wishes to say "a word or two in self defence" and adds that I am "wrong to attack him on this point."

In place of the word "attack" he should have used the word "correct," for I do not attack him.

He tells us that he prefers as a rule to work out parities on the basis of Mexican dollars, but what he prefers does not come into practice so far as Hongkong is concerned.

Mexican dollars are obsolete for the purpose of establishing correct exchange quotations for Hongkong, being quoted in the London market, as Mr. Haupt himself says, much above their intrinsic value as deduced from the price of silver, and very often bearing a considerable premium in Hongkong and Canton, they are therefore relatively dearer than bar silver, which will be readily seen from the following figures:—

Date	Price of Bar Silver.	Price of Mex. \$ above intrinsic value	Price of Mex \$ in Hongkong.
Nov 11 26½d.	26½d.	1.07 per cent.	1½ per cent prem
" 18 26½d.	26½d.	" "	" "
" 25 27½d.	26½d.	.17	" "
Dec. 2 27½d.	26½d.	.18	" "
Jan. 5 26½d.	26½d.	2.75	par

On 5th January the price of Mexican dollars in London was 26½ pence per ounce, and the price of bar silver "spot" was 26½ pence per ounce, therefore British dollars could be minted in India and imported by the Straits Settlements and Hongkong about 1½ per cent. cheaper than Mexican dollars, allowing for the same charges as given by Mr. Haupt, and not taking into account loss of interest.

Mexican dollars are largely imported by China and the Straits, but they are unreliable as a medium for fixing the exchange between China and England.

I make these few remarks in order to point out to Mr. Haupt more clearly the reason for not relying on the Mexican dollar as the basis *par excellence* for China and Straits exchanges, and also to show that in writing as he does on the Eastern exchanges local conditions should be taken into consideration, as well as the prices ruling on the London market; he, however, entirely ignores these when he states that "the extremely slow movement of Japanese yen from the Straits and China has taken everybody by surprise, not least the Government of the country."

The Japanese silver yen has been bought up in large quantities in this colony as high as ten per cent. premium for shipment to Japan.—Yours truly,

W.H.G.

Hongkong, 12th January, 1898.

THE NEW RUSSIAN MINISTER TO KOREA.

M. Matunine has been appointed Russian Minister to Korea, so M. Dimitreysky is not to leave Shanghai, which is a matter of congratulation. M. Matunine is well known in the Far East and many English travellers, especially military sportsmen from Hongkong, who have had the pleasure of meeting him when he was Frontier Commissioner at Novo Kiefsk, on the borders of Manchuria, in the early nineties, will remember his genial hospitality extended to all *shikaris*. M. Matunine is master of many languages and has had much experience in the handling of Oriental peoples. He is about 50 years of age, a giant in frame and endurance, and has a most charming wife and family.—*China Gazette*.

BORNEO TROUBLES.

Singapore, 27th December.

H.M.S. *Plover* has received orders to sail at once for the Coast of Borneo, and she goes this afternoon so soon as the mail from home is delivered. The *Plover* goes in connection with the Mat Salleh affair—that chief having successfully beaten off a small police force recently sent to attack him. Mr. W. C. Cowie, of the British North Borneo Board, comes by to-day's mail, and may, perhaps, proceed to Borneo by the *Plover*. Or, he may wait to see the Acting Governor.—*Straits Times*.

Singapore, 30th December.

By the *Banjermassin* which arrived last night from Labuan and B. N. Borneo some particulars have arrived of the late unsuccessful attack of the B. N. B. Forces under Messrs. Hewett, Wise, Ormesby, and Adjutant Jones, on the stronghold of Mat Salleh, Sugut River on Dec. 13th. The expedition, as was stated in our special telegram, attacked the rebel's stronghold and was repulsed with the loss of six Sikhs and Adjutant Jones, seven Sikhs being wounded by the heavy fire of the rebels.

When the *Banjermassin* left Mr. Hewett had returned to Sandakan, and had apparently recovered from the serious illness mentioned in our telegram, for he went on with Mr. Wise and twenty men by the *Banjermassin* to Kudat.

The attack was delivered under heavy fire. The attacking party had the advantage of a 7pr. gun and opened fire at about 300 yards. The rebel fire was heavy, and, in one case at least, accurate, a Sikh deserter who has joined Mat Salleh making such good practice with a Snider that he hit the muzzle of the field gun no less than three times.

The 7 pr. was used to effect a breach in the outer work of felled trees and brushwood. So well did this resist the fire that when a breach was made, all the ammunition for the gun was gone but three rounds, one of which was used as a prelude to the assault, and the other two during the assault. The thirty three rounds were evidently insufficient, and the same complaint is made about the rifle ammunition, which is alleged to have also run short, on this and in previous attacks.

Adjutant Jones's wound was in the side, a bullet striking him above the right hip. He lived for eight or nine hours after receiving his wound but was quite unconscious. During the attack he took a prominent part, using a Winchester repeater, until it jammed, and he had to throw it away. His death is much regretted, as he was a general favourite. He was originally in the London police, we hear, and was formerly in Province Wellesley.

Although the force got through the outer palisade, the fire was too heavy for them to get to the inner one, and a retreat had to be called, the rebels having safely defended their fastness.—*Free Press*.

Hongkong, 12th January.

The gunboat *Swift* left here yesterday afternoon for Sandakan in order to take part in the suppression of Mat Salleh's rebellion.

THE U.S. MINISTER TO CHINA.

REPORTED CHANGE.

A telegram was received here to-day from America, stating that it was very probable that Mr. Bryan, who had been appointed U.S. Minister to Peking, would exchange posts with Mr. Angell, the Ambassador designate to Turkey. Mr. Angell is not new to China, having been in Peking in 1880 with Mr. Swift, in connection with the negotiation of the Chinese Immigrant Bill.—*China Gazette*.

An attempt to bribe a constable has got a Chinaman into serious trouble. P. C. Hammond was in a police pinnace when he saw a Chinaman go from a ship into a sampan and drop a bundle. The constable investigated and found the bundle to contain Manila lottery tickets. The Chinaman was alarmed and sought to send the constable away with a present of \$6, but the constable would take nothing but the man himself, whom he charged with attempting to bribe him. The defendant was brought up at the police Court and committed for trial on the charge of attempting to bribe.

THE SHARE MARKET IN 1897.

Mr. Jno. Sullivan, Stock and Share Broker, of Shanghai, has published a table showing the differences between the values of local and other stocks dealt in on the local market on 31st Dec., 1896, and 31st Dec., 1897, showing a gross gain by appreciation of Tls. 5,422,121 and a loss by depreciation of Tls. 2,023,690, having a net gain of Tls. 3,398,431. The following table gives the result of comparative analyses for years:—

Loss by shrinkage.	Gain by appreciation.
1892 Tls. 11,144,274	Tls.
1893 " 2,836,628	2,759,696
1894 " "	12,132,406
1895 " "	3,406,667
1896 " "	3,398,431
1897 " "	
Tls. 13,980,902	Tls. 21,697,200

Mr. Sullivan gives the following retrospect of the year:—

Continuing my tables of previous year's statistics, it is satisfactory to note that the result of share speculation for 1897 has been in favour of the port, and that we continue to forge ahead despite several adverse circumstances. The actual net gain is not very great, but it is interesting to analyse how this total is made up.

The depreciation shown on Bank stock is caused by the political atmosphere being loaded with alarming possibilities to China which may at any moment stop the trade facilities of the whole of the treaty ports, if war be declared; and no one can dispute that complications are possible that ultimately may lead to the dismemberment of the Chinese Empire. Otherwise the position of the Bank shares is intrinsically better than that of last year. The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank alone has added \$1,000,000 to its Reserve, and the profitable character of this year's working is generally known to be good. The shares are considerably lower than they would be, if Russia, Germany, and France were not knocking so imperatively at the doors of China. Insurance shares, with the exception of the Union, all show a loss, but it is acknowledged that last year's marine risks were unfortunate. Shipping shares show a welcome appreciation and the results of the year must have been good, because there seems to be a possibility of the Indo-China S.N. Co. (our pet local stock) paying a dividend again. Docks show up badly because of the difficulties encountered with the river's erratic swirl and the ensuing complications which prevent the additions being made to Farnham's Cosmopolitan or the positive construction of the Engineering Dock.

Curiously whilst Shanghai Land Investment Co. shares have appreciated, Hongkongs have done the reverse. Actuality of railways and the progress made in Hongkong are accountable for the appreciation here, but why Hongkong should retrogress is not quite clear. Cotton shares show what is possible if exchange would only cease its wandering course. Two Companies have published balance sheets showing 3½ per cent. for 5 months' working at half power; so, when these mills with their full complement of spindles are at work—the retardation of which is due to the engineering strike at home—it may be assumed that a much better state of affairs will be shown in next accounts. In fact, so promising does this cotton industry appear that, with a continuance of low exchange, it is easy to prophesy for Shanghai a big manufacturing trade in the very near future. Mining stocks show Raubs have advanced enormously in value, owing to the splendid future. This Company has so far paid for its huge intersectional developments out of working account alone and is now cultivating prospective fortunes for a future generation, without much thought or care for the present shareholders, who would welcome bigger dividends and let posterity look after itself. In the Miscellaneous list, Waterworks show an appreciation of value because of its steady income derived from the ever-increasing Settlement, and it must be placed on record that during the past three years this Company's shares have augmented in value Tls. 1,000,000. Tobacco shares have risen in proportion to the nearness of the oil consummation. During the past four years the wonderful increase in these Companies'

liabilities is most marked, for their respective capitals have been added to and the shares correspondingly appreciated to Tls. 2,356,800, without any additional assets being shown since they were first started, except that of prospective oil and the glamour of imagination which such a possibility excites. The Sumatra alone has paid dividends from its legitimate source—tobacco growing. The progressive figures of the American Cigarette Co., show that this Company has doubled its capital in public estimation, since its inception, without paying a dividend.

The steady depreciation of debentures during the past two years clearly marks a want of confidence by the public of the stability of exchange and a general desire to withdraw money from the East.

Altogether the result for 1897 of Tls. 3,384,431 shows a sufficiently favourable state of affairs in the East, although a further sum would have been added had not the late dearth of sycee occurred, by which misfortune it is calculated that a depreciation of 1½ million has taken place. This absence of silver was brought about by the various ramifications of the different Banks, which left the market high and dry. To Japan, according to official returns received from the Bank of Japan, Tls. 94 millions of silver yen were tendered for conversion into gold; to Newchwang and Korea, for extraordinary disbursements on Russian account and the northern trade, it is stated that over 40 lacs were despatched, and by our Tientsin and Riverine dependencies unusually large amounts were required—all of which sums were withdrawn from actual stock of current silver without immediate or prospective provision being made for the vacuum caused. In consequence, native interest during the past six weeks rose repeatedly to over Tls. 1 per diem and the financial strain was so enormous that the various import markets suffered heavy losses to clear their winter stocks. To such a low ebb was our silver stock reduced that at one time not more than 6½ lacs of sycee were available for the current business of the port and a period of anxiety ensued which threatened disaster all round. That the share market should have suffered under such abnormal conditions is positive. The smashing of one of our principal native operators, just before the 31st Dec. settlement, caused havoc and desolation amongst those interested, and literally blocked the clearance which would otherwise have passed off without fault. The casual way with which Chinese dealers can stop payment without anything being done towards enforcing investigation or the fulfilment of obligations is unique, and is only possible in China. This is the second big failure on native account which has been recorded within the past two years, and greater caution should be exercised by foreigners when accepting their names for contracts which are not enforceable by law or custom.

For 1898 the prospects look bright, and one may safely predict a better out-turn than that recorded for 1897, notwithstanding the present imbroglio by the Powers in the Far East.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

It is said that the Black Flag General, Liu Yung-fu, has been promoted to be Admiral of Kwangtung Province, replacing Admiral Ho Chang-ching. He is to take charge of all the land defences as well as the squadrons of Kwangtung Province.

It is officially notified in Canton that the Chinese New Year holidays are to commence on the 12th January and continue to the 9th February. During the holidays the seals of all the yamens are to be closed and no trifling cases are to be dealt with.

On the 4th inst. a fire broke out in a fire-cracker shop in Honam. Only the shop where the fire originated was destroyed, but a young woman was burnt to death and six persons were injured. The cause of the fire was that a spark was carelessly allowed to fall on the powder.

Twenty-eight robbers were taken out on the 5th instant from the prisons of Nam-hoi and Pun-u for execution. Twenty-four were carried in baskets to Tin-tsz-ma-tau to be beheaded and four were sent back to Sun-tak District, where

they committed their crimes for decapitation. The heads of the latter four were stuck on bamboos and exposed to the observation of the public.

The Black Flag General has sent an officer to Kwangsi to enlist twenty-five thousand soldiers. It is said that the soldiers under his command of the Black Flag General have much higher wages than other soldiers.

On the 4th instant, at 11 a.m., a junk towed by a steam launch, from Canton for Chat-Hum, was robbed when the voyage was half completed. The usual plan of robbing junks was used. Some robbers boarded the junk, as passengers. When she was midway between Canton and Chat-Hum a long boat containing about one hundred robbers came up to her and the robbers in the junk then drew out their revolvers and jumped over to the steam launch and forced the coxswain to stop the engines, which the coxswain dared not refuse to do. The robbers coming from the long boat all boarded the junk and began their plundering operations. They then carried all the valuables from the junk to the launch and, having cut the tow rope, forced the coxswain to steam to a shallow place where the launch was beached. They all then landed with their spoils. Another junk of the same line was robbed in the same way a month ago.

A big fire broke out in a druggist's shop on the morning of the 24th December in Taumun, in Heungshan district. Over one hundred houses were burnt to the ground, but no loss of life was reported. The fire originated from burning joss paper, which ignited the wooden partitions of the shop.

HONGKONG.

The situation in the East has caused considerable discussion in Hongkong lately and the report of a settlement having been arrived at has given great satisfaction and a new life to the local share market. We hope to see the Fleet in Hongkong for the Races. On Monday a boy on the *Edgar* was court-martialled for assaulting his captain and he was severely punished for this most serious offence. The licensing justices have determined to take action in regard to the sale of certain liquors in the colony, which are an abomination and cause the ruin of many a sailor and soldier. The Spanish officers who came here with the Philippine rebel leaders have returned to Manila.

On Tuesday afternoon the Hongkong Football Club beat B Company of the Royal Lancaster Regiment by seven goals to one in a pleasant and interesting game.

On Tuesday Sergeant Pickford, of the Naval Yard Police, died of dropsy at the Naval Hospital. He was an energetic officer and as a piper was a prominent figure at Scotch gatherings. The funeral takes place this afternoon.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donation to the funds of the Hospitals:—

Collected by Lee Shui Ying \$252
Pawnbrokers' Guild 100

A young constable named J. Sutton died at the Government Civil Hospital on Wednesday, 5th January, from an internal complaint. He had been in the Hongkong Police Force but little over a year and was much liked by his comrades. His funeral, which took place on 7th inst., was largely attended.

On 5th Jan. Hon. H. E. Wedehouse inquired into the circumstances attending the death of a child, who was fatally scalded in a house in Praya-West. A pot of boiling water had been placed on the floor of the kitchen and the child fell over the pot in the dark and received such severe scalds that she died. His Worship expressed his sympathy with the mother of the child and returned a verdict of accidental death.

Two privates in the King's Own Regiment, named George Allison and James Wilkinson, were charged at the Police Court on Tuesday with behaving in a disorderly manner in an eating house in Queen's Road. The prisoners had a meal in the house and Allison paid for his, but Wilkinson refused to pay. When asked for the money Wilkinson tore the shopkeeper's jacket, while Allison assaulted him. Each of the prisoners was fined \$1 and Wilkinson was ordered to pay an additional \$1 amends.

H.M.S. *Edgar* arrived on 4th January with reliefs. H.M.S. *Grafton* left for the North on 4th January.

The Secretary of the Panjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that the following telegram giving the result of the December clean-up has been received:—"The mill ran 30 days crushing 2,400 tons of headings yielding 235 ozs. of gold. Twenty-five tons of concentrates were ground in the Berdan pans yielding 45 ozs. The cyanide works ran 26 days treating 760 tons of tailings yielding 75 ozs. of bullion valued at 19/- per ounce.

A Chinese lukong was on Tuesday committed for trial on a charge of misconduct. The evidence against him was that he accused the master of a bumboat with having a bottle of brandy on board and then demanded \$60 hush money. The master and another man paid him \$25 between them. The prisoner's defence was that the charge was a false one and was brought because prisoner had failed to pay \$23 principal and interest of money borrowed from the master.

Prospects of a cold voyage north and lack of suitable clothing induced the Lascar crew of the Japanese ship *Tamba Maru* to leave off work on Monday morning. Four of the ring-leaders were given into the custody of the police and on Tuesday they aired their grievances to the Magistrate. The Captain said he was quite willing to give all the men money to buy clothing and the accused were thereupon released for an amicable settlement to be arrived at. It was understood that an obliging Taipingshan second-hand clothes dealer would be willing to supply the necessary outfits for the men.

We are glad to note that the Public Works Department are turning their attention to a necessary if not showy work. They are now making the dangerous places in the Hill districts safe by the erection of iron railings. One stretch of path, just above Plunket's Gap, has been so protected, and two or three stretches of precipitous drops from the path along Magazine Gap Road are being rendered secure. Several accidents have occurred in the past and more would be probable in thick and misty weather, but with these dangerous places railled, as is now being done, the chances of their occurring will be minimised.

The Harbour Master held three enquiries on 4th Jan. at the Harbour Office. The first related to the collision in the harbour between the tug *Tow* and a fishing boat on the 29th December. The master of the launch was exonerated from blame. In the second case, which related to the collision between the *Rising Star* and a fishing boat, also on the 29th December, the master of the *Rising Star* was held to be in the wrong and his certificate was suspended for a month. The result of this collision was that a child, eighteen months' old, was drowned. The third enquiry had reference to a collision between the launch *Ying Lee* and a passage boat in the harbour. The master of the launch was cautioned to be more careful in the future.

The smoking concert at the Volunteer Institute on Saturday night, 8th Jan., was most enjoyable and judging by the large attendance the band funds will benefit considerably. Major Sir John Carrington, Commandant, was unable to be present and Captain Chapman occupied the chair. The programme was a capital one and sufficiently long to fill up time until nearly midnight. The vocalist who scored the greatest success was Corporal Williams, of the King's Own Regiment. His business is purely comic and in that sphere he is undoubtedly first class. His songs, recitations, and mimicry were all so cleverly and naturally done that the audience laughed heartily all the time he was on the stage and it was with difficulty they could refrain from calling for him even after two encores. Corporal Williams is just the sort of man who can supply good wholesome fun and we hope the Hongkong public will have the opportunity of hearing him often. Bandsman Upton, of the King's Own, and Sergeant McPhail and Gunner Bridger, of the Volunteers, also sang, their songs being much appreciated. Mr. W. Muskett recited and was warmly applauded, and Bombardier Baker and Gunner Crawford played a very pretty flute duet. Several members of the band of the Regiment played some excellent selections during the evening.

Malwa.—Old descriptions are in demand whilst new drug is out of favour. Latest figures are as follow:—

New (last year's) \$750 with allowance of 0 to 4 cts.
 Old (2 1/3 yrs.) \$770 " " 0 to 2 1/2 "
 " (1 1/2 ") \$800 " " 1 to 1 1/2 "
 Persian.—Oily drug has been neglected and has fallen in value. Paper wrapped Opium has advanced. Current figures are \$490 to \$630 for Oily and \$54 to \$660 for Paper wrapped according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—
 New Patna..... 1,660 chests.
 New Benares..... 1,990 "
 Old Benares..... 520 "
 Malwa..... 340 "
 Persian..... 1,060 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1898.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Jan. 5	717 1/2	—	717 1/2	735	710/750	770/800
Jan. 6	720	—	717 1/2	740	710/750	770/800
Jan. 7	720	—	717 1/2	740	710/750	770/800
Jan. 8	720	—	715	740	710/750	770/800
Jan. 9	720	—	715	740	710/750	770/800
Jan. 10	720	—	712 1/2	737 1/2	710/750	770/800
Jan. 11	720	—	712 1/2	737 1/2	710/750	770/800
Jan. 12	717 1/2	—	711 1/2	732 1/2	710/750	770/800

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 12th January.—Good new parcels having arrived in small lots have been taken up at better rates. Old Cottons are being enquired moderately. Stock, about 500 bales.

Bombay.....\$16.50 to 19.00 p. pl.
 Kurrachee..... 17.00 to 18.00 "
 Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca..... 16.50 to 19.50 "
 Shanghai and Japanese... 21.00 to 22.50 "
 Tungehow and Ningpo... 21.00 to 22.00 "
 Madras (Best)..... 17.00 to 18.00 "
 Sales: 1,300 bales Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca

RICE.

HONGKONG, 12th January.—Stocks are accumulating and prices are weaker. Quotations are:—
 Saigon, Ordinary.....\$2.25 to 2.30
 " Round, good quality..... 2.55 to 2.60
 " Long..... 2.70 to 2.75
 Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2..... 2.30 to 2.34
 " Garden, No. 1..... 2.75 to 2.80
 " White..... 3.65 to 3.70
 " Fine Cargo..... 3.85 to 3.90

COALS.

HONGKONG, 12th January.—Sales 15,000 tons Japanese on private terms and 500 tons Australian to arrive at \$10.50 are reported. Market fairly steady. Quotations are:—
 Cardiff.....\$18.50 to 19.50 ex ship, nominal.
 Australian.....\$10.00 to 11.50 ex ship, steady
 Miki Lump (and Small)..... 9.00 to 10.25 nominal.
 Moji Lump..... 7.75 to 10.50 ex ship, steady
 Hongay Lump..... 9.00 to —
 Hongay Dust..... 4.8 to —
 Briquettes..... 10.00 to —

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 12th January.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn.—165 bales No. 8 at \$75 to \$78, 1,160 bales No. 10 at \$77 to \$84, 835 bales No. 12 at \$78.50 to \$84. 370 bales No. 16 at \$88 to \$94, 555 bales No. 20 at \$86.50 to \$97. Grey Shirtings.—2,200 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Red Boys at \$2.55, 600 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Sword and Book at \$2.80, 3,300 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Blue 3 Dogs at \$2.95, 800 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Blue Joss No. 2 at \$2.90, 2,100 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Blue Peach at \$3.90, 1,000 pieces 10 lbs. P. M. at \$3.90, 600 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Red 7 Boys at \$2.55, 600 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Blue Lion at \$2.75, 2,000 pieces 10 lbs. Blue Triangle at \$3.67 1/2. White Shirtings.—7,000 pieces 0 at \$1.30, 250 pieces No. 3 at \$3.50, 2,000 pieces S. Q. at \$4.4 1/2, 750 pieces Gold Goose at \$4.32 1/2, 1,350 pieces Gold Tiger at \$6.15, 500 pieces O. O. O. at \$5.35, 250 pieces Gold Pheasant at \$3.45, 250 pieces No. 220 at \$5.20, 900 pieces Blue Lion at \$6.65, 650 pieces No. 2 at \$6.35, 2,000 pieces No. 2 at \$6.35, 2,000 pieces No. 4,000 2 Fish at \$3.45, 250 pieces No. 230 at \$1.15. T-Cloths.—1,775 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Red Stag at \$2.40, 600 pieces 8 lbs. Mexican Hunter and Stag C. C. at \$3.05, 570 pieces 6 lbs. Red Pagoda at \$1.55, Turkey Reds.—500 pieces 1 1/2 lbs. Mandarin at \$1.47 1/2. Drills.—270 pieces 1 1/2 lbs. American at \$4.25. Long Ells.—250 pieces 8 lbs. Scarlet at \$7. METALS.—Quicksilver.—360 Flasks at \$125.25 to \$125.75.

COTTON YARN. per bale
 Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s..... 72.0 to 104.0
 English—Nos. 16 to 24..... 108.0 to 115.00
 " 22 to 24..... 110.00 to 115.00
 " 28 to 32..... 121.00 to 126.00
 " 38 to 42..... 139.00 to 138.00
 COTTON PIECE GOODS. per piece
 Grey Shirtings—6lbs..... 1.70 to 1.80
 7lbs..... 2.00 to 2.05
 8 1/2 lbs..... 2.45 to 3.15
 9 to 10 lbs..... 3.35 to 4.10
 White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.35 to 2.55
 53 to 60 " 2.70 to 3.40
 64 to 66 " 3.50 to 4.35
 Fine..... 4.30 to 7.10
 Book-folds..... 3.75 to 5.60
 Victoria Lawns—12 yards..... 0.65 to 1.20
 T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y. 1.50 to 1.70
 7lbs. (32 ") " 1.85 to 2.10
 6lbs. (32 ") Mexs. 1.65 to 1.80
 7lbs. (32 ") " 2.05 to 2.75
 8 to 8 1/2 oz. (36 in) 2.30 to 3.15
 Drills, English—40 yds., 13 1/2 to 14lbs..... 3.70 to 5.10

FANCY COTTONS

Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 7lbs..... 1.50 to 4.00
 Brocades—Dyed..... 3.90 to 5.00 per yard
 Damasks..... 0.12 to 0.16
 Chintzes—Assorted..... 0.08 to 0.14
 Velvets—Black, 22 in..... 0.20 to 0.30
 Velvetens—18 in..... 0.16 to 0.18 per dozen
 Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.45 to 0.90

WOOLLEN

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops. 0.55 to 1.35 per yard
 German..... 1.15 to 1.50
 Habit, Med. and Broad Cloths. 1.15 to 5.25 per piece
 Long Ells—Scarlet..... 6.50 to 9.00
 Assorted..... 6.60 to 9.10
 Camlets—Assorted..... 12.00 to 32.00
 Hastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted..... 11.00 to 20.00
 Orleans—Plain..... 7.00 to 8.50 per pair
 Blankets—8 to 12lbs..... 5.50 to 12.00

METALS

per picul
 Iron—Nail Rod..... 4.15 to —
 Square, Flat Round Bar... 4.17 1/2 to —
 Swedish Bar..... 5.90 to —
 Small Round Rod..... 4.50 to —
 Hoop..... 5.70 to —
 Wire 15/25..... 9.25 to —
 Old Wire Rope..... 1.50 to 3.00
 Lead, L. B. and Hot Chop... 8.25 to —
 Australian..... 8.25 to —
 Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/23 oz. 28.75 to —
 Vivian's, 14/20 oz. 28.75 to —
 Elliot's, 14/23 oz. 28.75 to —
 Composition Nails..... — to —
 Japan Copper, Slabs..... 29.50 to —
 Tiles..... 29.00 to —
 Tin..... — to — per box.
 Tin-Plates..... 5.80 to — per cwt. case
 Steel 1/2 to 1..... 5.75 to —

SUNDRIES

per picul
 Quicksilver..... 126.00 to —
 Window Glass..... 4.10 to — per box.
 Kerosene Oil..... 1.86 to 1.87 per 10-gal. case

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 12th January.—The market has been fairly active during the week and a good many stocks have changed hands at enhanced rates, notably Banks and Hotels, both of which have experienced quite a boom. News from the North is much more favourable and our Shanghai friends, basing their calculations on the present advance in rates just before Chinese New Year, expect to see a still further improvement after the holidays. The money market is apparently easier, but any fresh advances against stocks are still more or less difficult to be obtained. The more pacific aspect of the situation in the Far East has also had a beneficial effect on the market.
 BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai in the early part of the week continued to change hands at 176 and 177 per cent. prem. in small lots and a fair number of shares were done for March at 184 and 185 and for April at 186 and 187. Later, however, consequent upon a jump in the London rate to \$44 10s., the more

pacific aspect of affairs, and the idea that the British Government would probably negotiate a Chinese loan through the Bank, the rate suddenly rose, after a small sale at 178, to 184 per cent. prem. without bringing out any sellers. At 185, at which a small lot changed hands, the market showed some signs of quieting down, and sellers were unable to dispose of any more shares at that rate. In sympathy with the rise in cash the forward rates rose and some parcels changed hands at 190 and 192 for March 31st and at 192 and 194 for April 30th. The market closes quieter with sellers at 185, with the latest London quotation at \$44. Nationals continuing on offer at \$22 1/2 have fallen to \$22 with sales.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have been negotiated at \$71, Cantons at \$150, Yangtszes at \$145, and North Chinas at Tls. 198, all in small lots. Straits continue out of favour with sellers \$15 1/2, and no sales to report.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have further improved their position to \$375, after sales at \$369, \$370, and \$372 1/2, closing with buyers at \$375 with financial facilities. Chinas have found buyers at \$107 to \$108 and close with sellers at \$107 1/2.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao after further sales at \$29 again receded with sales to \$28 1/2 and \$28, at which rates a fair number of shares changed hands. Sales were also effected at \$29 1/2 for 23th February and at \$29 1/2 for March. The market closes with cash sales at \$2 1/2 and at \$28 1/2 for March. The half yearly meeting is advertised for 29th inst., the transfer books closing on the 15th inst. Indo Chinas have continued in request at \$52 to \$52 1/2 cash with small sales at those rates and at \$55 for April the market closing firm with buyers at \$52 1/2. Douglases remain steady with further sales at \$57. China and Manilas and China Mutu is unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars were transacted in the early part of the week at \$162 and \$163, also at \$166 and \$167 for March, closing somewhat quieter at \$162. Luzons, consequent upon the finish of the rebellion in the Philippines, have been in fair demand and sales have been made at \$38. Holders, however, are pretty firm and refuse to supply a further demand except at a substantial advance.

MINING.—Punjoms have slightly improved with sales at \$6 and \$6.25 for ordinaries and at \$1.40 and \$1.50 for preferences. The result of the December crushing, viz., about 350 oz. of gold, was a slight improvement on recent returns. Market closes steady at \$6.25. Charbonnages have been negotiated at \$100, \$105, and \$110, closing with sellers at the last rate. Balmorals remain quiet and without business at quotations. Olivers B after sales at \$8.25 close quieter at \$8. Raubs have ruled easier with sales at \$22 and reported ones at \$21 1/2. The result of the November-December clean-up is 1,623 oz. from 2,063 tons (nearly 16 dwt. per ton) for eight weeks as compared with nine weeks' previous crushing averaging 14 dwt. Market closes at \$22. Great Easterns have been done at \$3.10 and \$3, closing quiet at the latter rate.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been enquired for at 223 to 225 per cent. prem. without bringing out any shares and close steady at latter rate. Kowloon Wharves slightly improved in the early part of the week to \$59 with small sales, but close quieter at \$58. Wanchai Godowns could be placed at \$42.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue quiet at \$74 with sellers and no sales. Hotels have been in good demand, changing hands at \$51 1/2, \$52, \$53, \$54, and \$55 cash and at \$56, \$57, \$57 1/2, and \$58 for March 31st. West Points have found buyers at \$21 1/2 and close steady at that rate. The directors will recommend the payment of a dividend of \$1.25. Humphreys Estates have been negotiated in small lots at \$9 1/2, closing with sellers. Kowloon Lands unchanged and without business.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have ruled rather quieter with sales at \$34 1/2, \$34, and \$33 1/2 cash for old and at \$19 and \$18 1/2 for new shares. Watsons, Fenwicks, and Electrics have all changed hands in small lots at quotations. Hongkong Cottons have been done at \$17 and Shanghai Cotton Mills remain quiet with a small local business at quotations.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	185 ¹⁰ / ₁₀₀ prem=
China & Japan, prf.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	£3 10s.	nominal
Do. deferred...	£1	£5.5s., buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$20, sales
Founders Shares...	£1	\$20
Ball's Asbestos E. A. ...	£1	\$5
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$8.75, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$162
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.	Tls. 100	Tls. 101, sales
Hongkong	\$20	\$17, sales
Internati.	Tls. 100	Tls. 110
Lacu Kung Mow ..	Tls. 100	Tls. 104
Soyche	Tls. 500	Tls. 540
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 92, sales
Dairy Farm Co.	\$5	\$4
Fenwick & Co., Geo. ...	\$25	\$29, sales & buyers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$34, sales
Do. New Issue	\$25	\$18, sales
H. & China Bakery ...	\$50	\$33
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	\$10	\$120
Hongkong Electric ...	\$10	\$10, sales & sellers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$105
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$55
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$113
H. & K. Wharf & G. ...	\$50	\$58, sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$171, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	\$225 p. et. prem.=
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$150, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$107
China Traders'	\$25	\$71, sales
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$35, sales
North-China	\$25	Tls. 108, sales
Straits	\$20	\$153, sellers
Union	\$25	\$229, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$145, sellers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment.	\$50	\$74, sellers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$9.25, sales
Kowloon Land & B. ...	\$30	\$19
West Point Building	\$40	\$22, sales & sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$39, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$110, sellers
Great E. & C'donian	\$1	\$6, sellers
Do. Do.	\$25	\$3, sales & sellers
Jelebu	\$5	\$2, sales & sellers
New Balmoral	\$1	\$1.40, sellers
Do. Preference ...	\$1	\$1.50, buyers
Oliver's Mines, A. ...	\$5	\$19, sellers
Do. B. ...	\$25	\$3, sales & sellers
Punjom	\$5	\$6.75, al. & buyers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$1.40, sales
Rauhs	13s. 10d.	\$22
New Amoy Dock	\$10	\$18, sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$76, sellers
China Mutual Ord...	£5	£2 10s. buyers
Do. Preference...	£10	£7 10s. buyers
Douglas S. S. Co. ...	\$50	\$57, sales
H. Canton and M. ...	\$15	\$284, sellers
Indo-China S. N. ...	\$10	\$524, sales & buyers
Tehran Planting Co. ...	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do.	\$2	\$2, sellers
United Asbestos	\$2	\$2, sellers
Do.	\$10	\$10, nominal
Wanchai Wareh'se Co.	\$37	\$42, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$12, sales & sellers

EXCHANGE.

WEDNESDAY, 12th January.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.44
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.47 1/2
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	1.97 1/2
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	47
Credits, 60 days' sight	48
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	144
Bank, on demand	144 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	144
Bank, on demand	144 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	73 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	74

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand	4 1/2 % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	6 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 1/2 % pm.
SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate	10.15
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	52.50

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 12th January.—Only a comparatively few fixtures have been reported during the past fortnight and rates generally show a decline.

From Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul is the nominal rate and the demand for tonnage is not likely to begin much before 3/4 weeks hence. There is no enquiry from this port for either Java, Singapore, or Japan.

From Bangkok to this there is little or no demand, the rate remaining 21 cents outside or 26 cents per picul inside the bar.

Japan coal freights have weakened to \$1.55 per ton Hongkong, to Singapore \$2.50, and from Mororan to this \$2.50 per ton.

Sailing tonnage.—Another vessel has been fixed hence to Callao for prompt loading at about 20s. per ton of 50 cubic feet, and one has just left for Singapore to take up a charter for New York. Hence to New York there is no enquiry for ready vessels.

There are five vessels disengaged in port, registering 5,040 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

Columbus—German ship, 1,371 tons, Singapore to New York, £1,900 in full.

Fred P. Litchfield—American barque, 1,042 tons, hence to Callao, \$1,400 in full.

Takung—German steamer, 977 tons, Moji to Swatow, \$1.00 per ton.

Glengyle—British steamer, 2,244 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$2.50 per ton.

Donar—German steamer, 1,202 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.65 per ton.

Terrier—German steamer, 1,008 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.60 per ton.

Propontis—German steamer, 1,390 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.55 per ton.

Telantos—German steamer, 1,578 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.55 per ton.

Amara—British steamer, 1,566 tons, Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.

Pakhoi—British steamer, 1,248 tons, Hongkong to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.

Cosmopolit—German steamer, 671 tons, Iloilo to Hongkong, \$3,300 in full.

Paoting—British steamer, 1,038 tons, Kebao to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.

Taiyick—German steamer, 1,063 tons, Swatow and Hongkong to two ports Java, and thence back to Hongkong, 11,500 in full.

Siam—British steamer, 997 tons, Langkat to Yokohama, (paraffin oil), 24 cents per case.

Siegfried—German steamer, 99 tons, monthly, 6/6 months, \$5,000 per month.

Independent—German steamer, 1,003 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$5,000 per month.

Petrarch—German steamer, 1,251 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$5,500 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Orestes (str.); Java (str.), Kaisow (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—New York, Gaelic (str.). City of Peking (str.).

For NEW YORK.—Gerard C. Tobey, Benedi (str.). Port Adelaide (str.), Hankut (str.).

For VANCOUVER.—Empress of China (str.).

For BREMEN.—Darmstadt (str.), Preussen (str.).

For BALTIMORE.—Standard

For PORTLAND.—Pelican (str.).

For AUSTRALIA.—Yamashiro Maru (str.), Guthrie (str.).

For MARSEILLES.—Inaba Maru (str.), Saghalien (str.).

For VICTORIA.—Tacoma (str.).

For Seattle.—Kagoshima Maru (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST

MAIL.

HONGKONG.

January—

ARR'ALS.

- 4, Pakhoi, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 5, Astrid, Norwegian str., from Moji.
- 5, Gaelic, British str., from San Francisco.
- 5, Wosang, British str., from Canton.
- 5, Hsinfung, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 5, Kansu, British str., from Canton.
- 5, Nestor, British str., from Liverpool.
- 5, Australian, British str., from Sydney.
- 5, Kiangnan, Chinese str., from Swatow.

- 5, Taicheong, German str., from Panaroekan.
- 5, Whampoa, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 6, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
- 6, Amara, British str., from Bangkok.
- 6, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
- 6, Siegfried, German str., from Canton.
- 6, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
- 6, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
- 6, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
- 6, Kong Beng, British str., from Bangkok.
- 6, Hainan, German str., from Moji.
- 7, Hakata Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 7, Clara, German str., from Haiphong.
- 7, Malacca, British str., from Shanghai.
- 7, Nanyang, German str., from Coast Ports.
- 7, Myrmidon, British str., from Amoy.
- 7, Tantalus, British str., from Liverpool.
- 7, Irene, German str., from Hamburg.
- 7, Woosung, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 7, Sabine Kickmers, German str., from Amoy.
- 8, Tamarind, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
- 8, Apenrade, German str., from Canton.
- 8, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 8, Kashing, British str., from Canton.
- 8, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
- 8, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
- 9, Benlarig, British str., from London.
- 9, Chihli, British str., from Shanghai.
- 9, Della, German str., from Moji.
- 9, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
- 9, Hoihow, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 9, Hong Leong, British str., from Straits.
- 9, J. Christensen, Norw. str., from K'noizu.
- 9, Kiev, Russian vol. str., from Singapore.
- 9, Paoting, British str., from Moji.
- 9, Tanba Maru, Jap. str., from Antwerp.
- 9, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
- 9, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
- 9, Kingsing, British str., from Canton.
- 10, Auping, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 10, Choyang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 10, Fansang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 10, Daphne, German str., from Canton.
- 10, Pakhoi, British str., from Canton.
- 10, Niobe, German str., from Shanghai.
- 10, Rohilla, British str., from Bombay.
- 10, Ask, Danish str., from Haiphong.
- 11, Thames, British str., from Shanghai.
- 11, Yiksang, British str., from Iloilo.
- 11, Whampoa, British str., from Canton.
- 11, Tamsui, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 11, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
- 11, Hailoong, British str., from Swatow.
- 11, Kaifong, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 11, Kweiyang, British str., from Iloilo.
- 11, Orange Prince, British str., from Labuan.
- 11, Hermes, Norw. str., from Hongay.
- 12, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
- 12, Loosok, British str., from Bangkok.
- 12, Chuansang, British str., from Probolinggo.
- 12, Mathilde, German str., from Pakhoi.
- 12, Tordenskjold, Norw. str., from Swatow.
- 12, Kiangnan, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 12, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
- 12, Frejr, Danish str., from Hoihow.

January—

DEPARTURES.

- 5, Esang, British str., for Bangkok.
- 5, Kingsing, British str., for Canton.
- 5, Jas. Drummond, Amr. ship, for N. York.
- 5, Pronto, German str., for Tauron.
- 5, Devawongse, British str., for Swatow.
- 5, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
- 5, Kansu, British str., for Swatow.
- 5, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 5, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Oslo, Norw. str., for Kobe.
- 5, Pakhoi, British str., for Canton.
- 5, Salazie, French str., for Europe.
- 5, Wosang, British str., for Swatow.
- 6, Senta, German str., for Yokohama.
- 6, Quarta, German str., for Bangkok.
- 6, City of Rio de Janeiro, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
- 6, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
- 6, Independent, German str., for Saigon.
- 6, Kweilin, British str., for Saigon.
- 6, Nestor, British str., for Shanghai.
- 6, Propontis, British str., for Kobe.
- 6, Sishan, British str., for Swatow.
- 6, Taiyick, German str., for Amoy.
- 6, Kiangnan, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 6, Whampoa, British str., for Canton.
- 6, Columbus, German ship, for Singapore.
- 7, P. C. C. Klao, British str., for Bangkok.
- 7, Kyoto Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
- 7, Hsinfung, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Hunan, German str., for Chefoo.

7, Tritos, German str., for Saigon.
 7, Wingsang, British str., for Swatow.
 8, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
 8, Woosung, British str., for Canton.
 8, Shantung, British str., for Cheribon.
 8, Chelydra, British str., for Calcutta.
 8, Malacca, British str., for London.
 8, Myrmidon, British str., for London.
 8, Taicheong, German str., for Amoy.
 8, Uranus, Spanish str., for Manila.
 9, Apenrade, German str., for Haiphong.
 9, Clara, German str., for Hoihow.
 9, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
 9, Kashing, British str., for Hongay.
 9, Machew, British str., for Bangkok.
 9, Nanyang, German str., for Swatow.
 9, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
 9, Taksang, British str., for Kobe.
 9, Tantalus, British str., for Shanghai.
 10, Hoihow, British str., for Canton.
 10, Anping, Chinese str., for Canton.
 10, Choyang, British str., for Canton.
 10, Chihli, British str., for Canton.
 10, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 10, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 10, Pakhoi, British str., for Hongay.
 11, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 11, Hainan, German str., for Hoihow.
 11, Humber, H.B.M. storeship, for Shanghai.
 11, Vega, German bark, for Callao.
 11, Hongkong, French str., for Hoihow.
 11, Nanchang, British str., for Iloilo.
 11, Rohilla, British str., for Shanghai.
 11, Tetartos, German str., for Kobe.
 11, Tamsui, British str., for Canton.
 11, Columbia, British str., for Tacoma.
 11, Daphne, German str., for Chinkiang.
 11, Else, German str., for Iloilo.
 11, Hong Leong, British str., for Amoy.
 11, Irene, German str., for Yokohama.
 11, Kalgan, British str., for Wuhu.
 11, Kong Beng, British str., for Bangkok.
 11, Kingsing, British str., for Swatow.
 11, Whampoa, British str., for Chinkiang.
 12, Swift, British gunboat, for Hainan.
 12, Kaifong, British str., for Canton.
 12, Tamarind, Norw. str., for Bangkok.
 12, Tamba Maru, Japanese str., for Nagasaki.
 12, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 12, Amara, British str., for Saigon.
 12, Benlarig, British str., for Nagasaki.
 12, Hermes, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 12, Kiangnan, Chinese str., for Chinkiang.
 12, Niobe, German str., for Hamburg.
 12, Paoting, British str., for Port Wallut.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Huitan*, from Swatow, Messrs. E. C. Wilton and Wong Wing.
 Per *Yarra*, for Hongkong, Messrs. Ogilvie and W. H. Black, Rev. Edgar Dewstoc, Messrs. Lee Wah and Lia Chin Tye, Mr. and Mrs. Pronchandy and baby; for Shanghai, Mr. Reitzel Nethen; for Kobe, Mr. W. S. Abbott; for Yokohama, Messrs. Paul Balas, M. Allix, Deloune, and Bromley.
 Per *Kwanglee*, from Shanghai, Mr. J. Mitchell.
 Per *Salazie*, for Hongkong from Shanghai, Mr. A. Kouffard, Miss J. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. F. Goney and infant, Messrs. J. Chevallier and J. Bell Irving, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Fock, Messrs. J. B. S. Jacob, Geo. Lay, C. Allemao and child, and Philip Heath; from Yokohama for Bombay, Messrs. Cawashima, Soki and Anaton; from Shanghai for Bombay, Mr. Edward; from Yokohama for Aden, Messrs. Richardson (2); from Shanghai for Port Said, Mr. Sakh Talbah, Mrs. Harley, Mrs. Schultz; for Marseilles, General Donkhoskoy and Mrs. Donkhoskoy, Miss Marie Titoff, Messrs. Steherbina, Shamarsky, and Capt. Hermritzi; from Yokohama, Messrs. Goudareau and Ito.
 Per *Gaelic*, from San Francisco, &c., Rev. and Mrs. C. Bone, Master J. Bone, Miss M. E. Bone, Mr. A. Schleecher, Mr. T. M. Devilbiss, Mr. John Gray, Mrs. B. Wilson, Miss Mitchell, Mr. H. F. Arthur, Mr. E. W. Blodgett, Mr. and Mrs. Abrams, Mr. and Mrs. S. Squire, Dr. and Mrs. Walker and children, Mr. Sinclair Kennedy, and Mr. S. Dalton, and 344 Chinese.
 Per *Australian*, from Sydney, Miss Dodd, Mr. H. Hartland, Sir Wm. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Shephard Laidley, Miss Laidley, Miss Barendale, Lord Henry Thynne, Messrs. J. Ronald Clive, E. A. S. Watt, Miss T. Carey, Messrs.

Balfour Lees, Chas. Van Voarhis, Forsyth, and Windcatt; from Port Darwin, Mrs. Goldsmith, and Miss Honey.

Per *Esmeralda*, from Manila, Messrs. T. D. McKay, F. Dupie, J. M. Barretto, and G. Stuner.

Per *Hailoong*, from Tamsui, &c., Mr. J. H. Lewis, and Mrs. Law and child.

Per *Hakata Maru*, from Moji, Dr. Hewitt, Messrs. Parker, and Hamersly.

Per *Nanyang*, from Coast Ports, Mrs. Schmidt, Messrs. Sander and Little.

Per *Malacca*, from Shanghai for Hongkong, Messrs. H. A. Ritchie and E. W. Pugh; for London, Mrs. Fisher and infant, Mrs. and Miss Williams, and Master Davidson.

Per *Della*, from Moji, Mr. Nissen.

Per *Tamba Maru*, from Antwerp, Mrs. Remedios and 3 children, Mrs. Pearson and 2 children, and Miss Hatch.

Per *Thales*, from Taiwanfoo, &c., Messrs. A. G. de Bruin and P. A. Van de Stadt.

Per *Haimun*, from Tamsui, &c., Mrs. Boyd and three children, and Rev. F. P. Joseland.

Per *Yuensang*, from Manila, &c., Messrs. L. Gonzalez, J. Aris, Jesus A. de Sendayvila, V. Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. Celilio, Messrs. A. Bals, F. Peezas, and D. Laurel.

Per *Choyang*, from Shanghai, &c., Mr. J. N. Davis.

Per *Rohilla*, for Hongkong from London, Miss Harrison; from Brindisi, Mrs. Bell Irving; from Bombay, Messrs. A. Shewan and C. Abdoola; from Colombo, Rev. Jno. Beard, Messrs.

W. M. Johnstone, Holmes, and Horne; from Penang, Mrs. McLay, Mr. Oh Moh Tree; from Singapore, Messrs. W. G. Bell, O. B. Ross, and D. Hilchrist; for Shanghai from London, Messrs. W. Scott and E. H. Burrows; from

Ismailia, Miss S. M. White; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Russell; from Singapore, Mr. Chan Fook Chye; for Yokohama from London, Miss Gundry, Miss Broad, and Mr. L. Hunter; from

Brindisi, Mr. E. Hiltermann; from Malta, Mr. R. Young; from Bombay, Mr. Joosab Ahmed; for Kobe from London, Mr. A. E. Cooke.

Per *Zafiro*, from Manila, Mr. A. Misa.

Per *Hailoong*, from Swatow, Mr. and Mrs. Loeroh, and Mr. J. C. Gibson.

Per *Thames*, from Shanghai for Hongkong, Messrs. Ton Sui Che, Law Ching Chun, Ah Gong, and T. Bruce; for Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Leveson; for Marseilles, Messrs. Leo Zenzes and

Hugo Fremedlich; from Kobe for Hongkong, Mr. R. Howie; for London, Messrs. A. E. Sprosser, A. H. Kelly, J. Richardson, and J. Carverhill; from Yokohama for Hongkong, Messrs. J. A. D. McBrain, J. Denison, J. Jugs,

A. Don, Kong Sang Woh, and Mrs. Low Yew Song and infant; for London, Mr. W. H. Cope.

Per *Lightning*, from Calcutta, Mr. and Mrs. Mookerjee, Messrs. Ezekiel, J. Muchee Hussett and Leslie, and 824 Chinese.

DEPARTED.

Per *Hailoong*, for Amoy, Madame Blanco; for Tamsui, Master G. W. Mackay.

Per *Hongkong*, for Haiphong, Messrs. Moritz, Schanz, William Maistre, and Legarde, Revs. Colomb, Patuel, Dalanie, and Honnoi.

Per *Prinz Heinrich*, from Shanghai for Singapore, Messrs. A. Kahn, L. Kahn, and E. Kahn; for Colombo, Dr. Schumacher; for Genoa, Mr. and Mrs. B. Buschmann and children, Mr. O. Messing, Mr. and Mrs. Sheridan and children, Mr. Magens, Revs. Fogolla and Cherubin; for

Southampton, Mr. J. Christopher; for London, Messrs. W. Crocker and W. S. Dickinson, Mrs. C. Leach and children, Miss Reynolds, and Mr. Brennan; for Hamburg, Mr. and Mrs. O. P. Krogh and children, and Mrs. Petersen and children; for Bremen, Messrs. J. Voghterr, R. Engels, K. Brandt, Korn, and H. Hiede; from

Japan for Deli, Mrs. Yugi Tetsu Komya; for Port Said, Lieut. Alexis de Yanow; for Genoa, Miss McGrath; for New York, Mr. McGrath; for Bremen, Mr. H. Hansen; from Yokohama

for Bremen, Messrs. T. H. Nikolassen, A. S. Pedersen, N. S. Paulsen, A. M. Nilsen, A. Colsen, and J. H. Bloshensen; from Nagasaki for Singapore, Mrs. Sakemura Tse; from Hongkong

for Singapore, Miss Oinasa, Mrs. Omizo, Mr. and Mrs. Wai Nam, Mr. Omch Wee Nee, Mr. and Mrs. Lan Pou Chuen; for Port Said, Admiral Sir. Nowell and Lady Salmon; for

Genoa, Mr. and Mrs. O. Vortmann, Mr. Emil Daub, Mr. and Mrs. F. Kircher and children, and Capt. W. Wulff.

Per *Arratoon Apcar*, for Singapore, Messrs. A. P. Naina Mohamed and Oscar Rohman; for Calcutta, Miss H. S. Fletcher, Messrs. J. C. Oswald and W. D. Ovelpermann.

Per *Mennuir*, for Australia, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Anderson, and Mr. Simon.

Per *Hanoi*, for Haiphong, Messrs. W. F. Wenyon and Lai Loy.

Per *Yarra*, from Hongkong for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Loureiro, Mrs. Martin, Messrs. A. V. Havers, W. C. Jack, J. de Ansuatigne, S. de Arana, W. Gibson, Rev. E. Buffet, Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Marcovich; for Kobe,

Mr. J. R. Gillingham; for Yokohama, Mr. J. R. Hall; from Marseilles, &c., for Shanghai, Mr. Reitzel Nethen; for Kobe, Mr. W. L. Abbot; for Yokohama, Messrs. Paul Balas, Deloune, and Bromley, Mr. and Mrs. McAllix.

Per *Salazie*, from Hongkong for Saigon, Messrs. Po Shing, On Ku Pong, and Gaion; for Singapore, Messrs. A. Hanssen, A. Schleicher, F. Wynen, E. von Abereron, Baron Schroder; for Marseilles, Lieut. J. F. Denis, and Mrs. F. A. Caballero; from Yokohama for Bombay,

Messrs. Tawashima, Soki and Anaton; for Aden, Mr. and Mrs. Richardson; for Marseilles, Messrs. Goudareau and Ito; from Shanghai for Bombay, Mr. Edward; for Port Said, Mr. Sakh Tabbah, Mrs. Harley, and Mrs. Schultz; for Marseilles,

Governor-General and Mrs. Donkhoskoy, Miss Marie Titoff, Messrs. Steherbina, Shannovsky, and Capt. de Hermritzi.

Per *City of Rio de Janeiro*, for Shanghai, Mr. Wieler, Mr. and Mrs. Horsey, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Capen, Capt. Cummings; for Nagasaki, Mr. Y. Nagano, Master Nagano, Mr. Costal; for San Francisco, Mr. C. Lambton; for Vancouver, Mr. Jas. McWilliams; for London, Lieut. L. Sanders, R.N.

Per *Malacca*, from Hongkong for Singapore, Messrs. Wm. C. Southam, A. J. Reed, Miss Baxendale, and Mr. McKay; for Port Said, Mr. Pugh; for Brindisi, Mr. and Mrs. Jos. T. Low, Miss M. Low, Miss L. Dow, Dr. A. Abrams and Mrs. Abrams; for London, Paymaster G. Whiteroff, Mrs. Dowler and 2 children; from

Shanghai for London, Mrs. Fisher and child, Mrs. Williams, Miss Williams, and Master Davidson.

Per *Uranus*, for Manila, Messrs. Primo de Rivera, John T. Macleod, Antonio Pezi, Celestino Espinoza, John Gray, Robert Ogilvie, Mrs. Concepcion Enriquez, Mrs. Emilio Esteban and 2 children, Messrs. Francisco Blanco, Manuel Ortiz, Pedro Paterno, Maximo Paterno, Manuel Lopez, Andres Cabrera, Antonio Carlos, Agapeto Benson, Tomas Aquinaldo, Silvestre Legaspi, Valentin Diaz.

Per *Sungkiang*, for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Cruce and child, and Mrs. Hariton.

Per *Esmeralda*, for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Coney, Mr. W. H. Black, Mr. and Mrs. Loyzago and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Barretto.

Per *Hakata Maru*, from Japan for London, Messrs. T. Parker, R. M. Hewitt, E. Horsaley, J. Forster, and T. Hall. For Singapore, Messrs. S. Tamo, K. Tachibara, and Mrs. K. Iwamuro.

Per *Loongmoon*, for Shanghai, Mr. Schönmann, and Mr. and Mrs. Evenburg.

Per *Machew*, for Bangkok, Mr. Black.

Per *Rohilla*, for Shanghai from Hongkong, Messrs. S. Dalton, L. N. Leefe, Tong Kut Hin, and Dr. Kevern; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Russell; from London, Messrs. W. Scott and E. H. Burrows; from Ismailia, Miss S. M. White; from Kobe from Hongkong, Mr. C. H. Waters; from London, Mr. A. E. Cooke; for Yokohama from Bombay, Mr. J. Ahmed; from London, Misses Gundry and Broad, and Mr. L. Hunter; from Brindisi, Mr. E. Hiltermann; from Malta, Mr. R. Young.

Per *Hongkong*, for Hoihow, Hon. A. M. Thomson; for Haiphong, Mr. and Mrs. St. Mathurine, and Mr. Bauden.

Per *Kwanglee*, for Shanghai, Mr. Pearson and 2 babies.

Per *Thales*, for Amoy, Messrs. W. G. Ball and B. Ross.

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DEATH.

At Annfield House, Inverness, in his 79th year, JOHN MACRAVISH, formerly Manager of the Caledonian Banking Company, Scotland. (By telegram.)

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The German mail of the 13th December arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Preussen*, on the 13th January (31 days); the American mail of the 18th December arrived, per P. M. steamer *City of Peking*, on the 18th January (31 days); and the French mail of the 17th December arrived, per M. M. steamer *Sydney*, on the 18th January (32 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The first instalment of the Belgian railway loan has reached Shanghai.

The death is reported of General Jones, the United States Consul at Chinkiang.

The Singapore Chamber of Commerce has passed the currency resolutions in favour of a gold basis by seventeen votes to fourteen.

For the past half-year the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank will pay a dividend of £1 5s. per share, place 10 lacs to reserve, and carry forward about 3 lacs.

A joint-stock Newspaper Company, with a capital of 150,000 roubles, has been started in Vladivostok to publish a good-sized journal in the Russian and Chinese languages.—*Hioo News*.

Messrs. Sietas & Co., of Chefoo, have already arranged to open a business house in Kyaochau and other German firms are likely to follow suit. The firm named have been appointed contractors to the German Navy and Garrison.—*China Gazette*.

The German steamer *Deike Rickmers*, which grounded on the Bambek shoal on the 1st December, at 11 p.m., arrived at Singapore on the afternoon of the 5th, being towed off by the *Dorothea Rickmers* on the 4th.

A dividend of 1s. per share has been declared by the Raub Australian Gold Mining Co., Limited, and a call has been made of the same amount, the dividend on all contributing shares being appropriated by the Company in payment of the call.

It is reported amongst the Chinese at Macao that Kongmoon, one of the calling stations on the West River between Macao and Samshui, is to be made an open port. The *Echo Macaense*, which mentions the report, says it does not know what foundation there is for it.

It is reported that the Hamburg-American Steamship Company, of which Messrs. Carlowitz & Co. are the Shanghai agents, are about to undertake a four-weekly mail and passenger service between Hamburg and the Far East, alternating with the existing German mail service.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The following is the composition of the new Japanese cabinet:—Marquis Ito, Premier; Count Inouye, Finance; Baron Suematsu, Communications; Baron Miyoshi Ito, Commerce and Agriculture; Viscount Yashikawa, Home Affairs; Marquis Admiral Saigo, Navy; Viscount General Katsura, War; Mr. Sone, Justice; Marquis Saionji, Education; Baron Nishi retaining the portfolio of Foreign Affairs.

A Havas telegram dated Paris, 7th January, states that it is incorrect that an Anglo-Japanese alliance has been formed. Japan desires to maintain equally friendly relations with all the Powers. The French press approves of the Kiaochau arrangement, which removes to a remote distance of time the dismemberment of China. The *Nordeutsche* declares that the Germans are not penetrating China as conquerors.

The Jebeu Mining and Trading Co., Limited, have received the following telegram:—"Jebeu, 3rd January. Picked up lead, small, promising. Roberts." The reference is to the operations of the Company in lode-mining near Kuala Klawang. The Company have been at work for some time in developing what is believed to be a promising tin lode, but, latterly, as the shareholders were informed at their general meeting, the lode had been lost. That was understood to be a "fault," and operations in search of the lost lode, or lead, were continued.—*Straits Times*.

It is reported in native circles, says the *N. C. Daily News*, that the Ministry of War at Peking, in reply to a question from some of the Viceroy and Governors in the provinces as to the truth of the report of Russia's intention to hold Port Arthur, stated that "the move was one which not be helped, since both Germany and France were looking greedily on that place and other ports in the Liaotung Peninsula and on the Shantung-Chihli coast. Moreover, the war cloud was constantly increasing and becoming more threatening, so that to prevent Russia from doing some altogether unexpected thing, the best way was to keep her quiet with the bait of Port Arthur, in accordance with arrangements made two years ago."

The Rickmers Line intend to abandon their regular service to Shanghai, on the ground of the excessive local expenditure involved. In future Shanghai cargo will ordinarily be transhipped in Hongkong.—*N. C. Daily News*.

Shortly after two o'clock on Monday morning, 3rd January, a fire broke out in Higashi Kuromoncho, Shitaya, in Tokyo. A strong northerly wind was blowing, and the flames spread very rapidly, resulting in almost six hundred houses being destroyed in the Shitaya and Kanda districts.

The *Singapore Free Press* of the 6th January says:—The chartered transport *Jelunga*, officially designated No. 10, arrived from Hongkong to day, getting alongside the Borneo wharf about one o'clock. She brings with her the 1st Battalion Prince of Wales' Own (West Yorkshire Regiment), from Hongkong, and will take away with her the departing Rifle Brigade, who arrived in Singapore, also from Hongkong, on November 29th, 1896. The *Jelunga* had an extremely pleasant and uneventful trip on the way down, Lieut. Colonel C. S. Gordon, in command, bidding farewell to the Regiment last evening on his retirement on half pay, as he continues his voyage to England by the *Jelunga*, which will leave to-morrow afternoon at four o'clock.

The *Shanghai Mercury* says:—We regret to have to record the death of Mr. John Mactavish, of Inverness, the father of the late J. W. Mactavish of this town, and also the father of Mr. A. D. Mactavish, the agent of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank at Amoy. The deceased gentleman was for many years the Manager of the Caledonian Banking Co. of Scotland, but retired from that position about twenty years ago. He was an extremely popular and hospitable gentleman, and well known to many residents of the Far East—an excellent type of the kind old Highland gentleman. Many now living in these parts have enjoyed his kind hospitality at "Drakies," Inverness. We sympathise with his son at Amoy, and his relatives.

In connection with disturbances on board the German steamer *Dante* the Singapore Police have arrested the master, Capt. Kopke, on a charge of voluntarily causing grievous hurt, the first mate on a charge of attempted murder, and the second mate on a double charge of attempted murder and of committing a rash act. The vessel it appears is manned by a Chinese crew, and according to the story of the men as given by the *Free Press* they were so roughly handled by the Captain and officers of the ship, that they struck work on the morning of the 5th January. Early in the morning the Captain is alleged to have struck one of the crew over the nose with an iron spanner, and about 8.30 the first mate is said to have drawn a revolver and fired at one of the crew, fortunately missing him. He is then stated to have handed the weapon to the second mate, and one of the crew either jumped or was pushed overboard. A sampan coolie came to his assistance, and was fired at by the second mate, the shot taking effect in his back. So far the bullet had not been extracted. Accused appeared before the Magistrate on the 6th and were remanded to the 10th inst., bail in \$500 and \$1,500. The case against the Captain, for assaulting Cheng Ah Tiang, was heard on the 6th, the defendant being fined \$50 or two months' imprisonment.